

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – September 16, 2019
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Chele Miller, Dexter Harding and Charlie Townsend. Commissioners absent: John Watkins and Stephanie Doyle. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell, Eric Dube and Kit Morgan. Nelson assigned Lucy and Eric to fill the vacant seats.

Also present: John Hidden, Nancy Bailey, George Cleveland, Sharon Nothnagle and Katy Thompson.

Approval of Minutes for 08/12/2019 – Batch moved to accept minutes as written. Dexter seconded, motion carried. Eric Abstained.

Administrative/Announcements –

Nelson announced that the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions will have its annual meeting on November 2nd at Pembroke Academy. Those wishing to attend should inform Nelson so he can arrange for payment by the Selectmen's Office.

Wetlands/Shoreland Protection Violation

Nelson reported that a river bank stabilization project on the Swift River, Tax Map 201, Lot 2, as described to him by neighbors of the property, appears to be within the shoreland protection zone. He checked with NH-DES and it was verified that there has been no application submitted and no approval granted. Kit has inspected the area from the far bank of the river, outside of the property in question. He reported that there were retaining walls made of various wooden items placed along the steep bluff. There are hay bales and black fabric along the edge of the river.

Nancy Bailey reported that she has talked with the landowner and taken pictures that she will email to Nelson. She and John Hidden reported that soil is being excavated on the property and dumped over the side of the steep bluff, onto the wooden retaining devices. The work started on September 13, has been ongoing every day since then and is still in progress. George Cleveland stated that he was not an abutter to the lot in question but as a river user he was concerned about the impact it would have on the river.

Nelson explained that TCC has no jurisdiction concerning the matter and, absent a wetlands ordinance, there are probably no town regulations being violated. It's an issue for the state to deal with. But TCC can file a complaint with DES. He explained that DES has a limited number of inspectors and there is a backlog of violation complaints to be investigated. Chele moved that Nelson file a formal complaint from TCC to DES concerning the work being done on Tax Map 201, Lot 2. Dexter seconded, motion carried.

Katy asked if it would help if the Selectmen also filed a complaint. It was agreed that, the more complaints, the greater the possibility that DES would move quickly. A number of people at the meeting stated that they would also be filing complaints.

Financial

Charlie reported that there is \$2942.45 left in the 2019 TCC operating budget.

Expenses accrued since the last meeting are:

CCRD recording fee for TCS property	\$20.55	Cons. Fund
Legal Expenses for TCS property	\$495	Cons. Fund or Budget
Survey for TCS property	\$4215	Cons. Fund
Mow Waterfowl Haven field	\$325	Budget, Trails & Maint.

Eric moved to approve payment of the above expenses. Lucy seconded, motion carried.

Charlie passed out a worksheet for the proposed 2020 TCC annual budget, with recommendations for each line item. After review, it was agreed to move \$200 from Professional fees to Maintenance, Trails, and Managed Lands. Total proposed budget is \$6940, \$95 less than the 2019 budget. Charlie moved to accept the proposed budget, to be submitted to the Selectmen. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Land Conservation

Alt Easements – Nothing has changed; still waiting for SPNHF response to Chris Alt's proposal to merge and swap the conservation easements.

Community School Land Purchase – The purchase of the TCS property by the Town has been finalized. The Selectmen signed the boundary line adjustment at their August 22 meeting.

Payne – Paul King is currently surveying the property and delineating the easement and hold-out areas.

Padgett – Family members are discussing options for protecting the properties. There is no consensus yet.

Public Education and Outreach

SPARCnet – It is time to do the three fall salamander censuses. Chris is thinking September 28, October 12 & 26, which are all Saturdays. Will send out an email to TCC members and others who have asked to be on the list to confirm dates and times.

Easement Monitoring – Chele reminded everyone that it is time to do the annual easement monitoring. Batch has already turned in his report. Kit displayed some interest and could probably be cajoled into helping out if any monitor has a heavier burden than they would like. The Administrative Assistant reminded everyone that it is important to contact the landowners by whatever means available to remind them that the easement exists and the property is being monitored on a regular basis.

Wetlands

Pine Tree Power Cooling Water Disposal – Kit updated TCC on the situation concerning Pine Tree Power's application for water disposal. After DES asked for further information from the applicant, Pine Tree Power withdrew their application. It is assumed they will return to having the spent cooling water shipped elsewhere for treatment and disposal.

Managed Lands and Trails

Waterfowl Haven – Nelson, Kit and Ned cut back the black locust sprouts so the field could be mowed. Will plan on mowing the field every year (or hire someone with a brush hog).

Page Hill Logging – The timber harvest should not effect the public trail up to the view point. In fact, it might improve the view.

Other Business – Chele asked Dexter and Lucy how the Summer Trailblazers program went. They reported as recorded in the August minutes. Discussed the somewhat unfortunate circumstance that two new summer programs were set up and run this year and may have competed with each other. Lucy will talk with Gail Marrone and ask if TCC could team up with her on one program next year.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Chele moved in the name of Batch; Dexter and Lucy tied for second. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.