

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – October 12, 2020
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, Kit Morgan, Chele Miller and Charlie Townsend. Commissioners absent: Stephanie Doyle and William Batchelder. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell and Eric Dube. Nelson assigned Lucy and Eric to fill the vacant seats.

Also Present, Melanie Streeter, Board of Selectmen.

Approval of Minutes for 07/13/2020 – Eric moved to accept minutes as written. Kit seconded, motion carried.

Financial – Charlie reported that three payments have been made since the July meeting: \$900 to Green Mountain Conservation Group for water quality monitoring, \$555 to Mark Streeter for mowing at Bearcamp Field and Waterfowl Haven, and \$93.60 reimbursement to Nelson O'Bryan to cover costs of registering the Payne conservation easement. Charlie moved to accept and authorize the three payments. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Planning Board – Eric reserved Planning Board business for the Groundwater Protection agenda item below.

Board of Selectmen – Melanie inquired about the contents of the blue TCC glass-front cabinet in the Town Offices. The cabinet dates back at least twenty years and was intended to display brochures and fact sheets available to the public. It has not been used or updated for a long time. The TCC Administrative Assistant will meet with Melanie to review and inventory the contents.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Payne Easement – The easement has been signed by all parties and registered at CCRD. The Baseline Document has also been completed and signed.

Alt Easement Consolidation – Chris Alt and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests have developed a proposal to consolidate all of his easements into one or two easements (at Chris's discretion), to be held by SPNHF with Tamworth holding a executory interest. All costs would be born by Chris Alt and SPNHF except for cost of review by the town attorney. All that remains to be done is working out the particulars and acceptance by SPNHF board.

Public Education and Outreach

Summer Camp Sponsorship – Discussion concerning alternatives for local summer programs and funding them. Alternatives discussed were Barry Camp, Tin Mountain programs and Brett School programs. The current Covid situation makes it difficult to predict what will be available. The consensus is to plan on funding up to \$500 if a suitable program for Tamworth students is available.

SPARCnet – Chris Conrod reported that the fall salamander census at Remick Natural Area is underway. The count taken two days prior recorded a record breaking 31 red-back salamanders on the two survey plots. The final census for this year is scheduled for October 20 and Dexter Harding's Brett School class is planning on doing the survey. There will be an annual report soon after the final census.

2021 Proposed Budget – The budget was reviewed by line item. It was agreed that “Dues, Subscriptions & Meetings” could be reduced from \$600 to \$300 and the rest of the line items should stay the same. Charlie moved that the commission recommend to the Selectmen a total 2021 TCC budget of \$6581. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Easement Monitoring – It's time to do the annual inspections. One report has been received and two other inspections have been done, reports are pending.

Wetlands – Shannon, Great Hill Road/Swift River – A “Phase I Restoration Report” has been received by TCC and NH-DES. It describes the methods used to stabilize the bank of the river. TCC has not received any response from DES.

Groundwater Protection – Eric reported that the Planning Board is wrapping up their review and revisions of the Personal Wireless Service Facilities Ordinance. Sheldon Perry says that the Groundwater Protection Ordinance is the next project for the Planning Board. At that point there will be a joint PB-TCC work session scheduled.

Managed Lands and Trails

Hikin Heron Patches – The demand has increased this year. Stephanie has been charged with scouting out where to have more made.

Field Mowing – Nelson announced that Bearcamp Field and Waterfowl Haven field have been mowed. Because of the black locust sprouts, Waterfowl Haven should be mowed every year. Bearcamp Field can continue to be mowed on a semiannual basis.

Page Hill Trail and Ledges – Kit has been in touch with the Franchis. The logging operation is almost completed. When it is, Kit will schedule a site visit to see what work needs to be done on the trail.

Other Business

Commission Membership – Nelson asked those present to think of Tamworth residents who might be interested in joining TCC, and either pass recommendations on to him or encourage any likely candidates to attend a meeting.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Eric moved, Kit seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.