

## **Tamworth Conservation Commission**

Draft Minutes – February 8, 2016

### ***Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting***

**Call to Order** – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, Bob Seston, Ned Beecher, and Shannon Maes.

Also present: Stephanie Doyle.

**Approval of Minutes for 01/11/2016** – Moved by Batch to accept the minutes as submitted. Chele seconded, motion carried.

**Announcements** – Received copy of NH-DES wetlands complete forestry notification for Tax Map/Lot 420/7 & 9 (Bearcamp Valley Farm).

**Treasurer's Report/Financial** – Bob reported that there is no statement yet for 2016. He noted that, although total TCC expenditures were under budget for 2015, some line items for the 2015 budget were over budget. He recommended that professional fees for land conservation work should normally be taken out of the operating budget instead of the Conservation Fund as long as the funds are available.

**Membership** – The current terms of Chele and Shannon expire this year. Chele will accept a new term; Shannon declined a new term. The terms of alternates John Watkins and Eric Dube both expire this year. Neither are interested in replacing Shannon but they have yet to inform Nelson if they will accept another term as alternates.

**New member candidate:** Stephanie Doyle is interested in joining the Commission. She is new to Tamworth but she previously worked with Green Mountain Conservation Group as an intern. She participated in water quality monitoring and in coordinating educational programs. She is currently employed by New Hampshire Mushroom Company. Education and outreach would be her main motivation for joining TCC. After being interviewed by the Commission, Ned moved that the TCC recommend to the Selectmen that Stephanie and Chele be appointed to the two full commissioner terms beginning this year. Shannon seconded, motion carried.

### **Conservation Easements**

Kennett Osgood Road Parcel – The appraisal for the property is \$51,000. Andrew Kennett withdrew his offer to sell to the Forest Society after reviewing the appraisal, effectively stopping the project. Kennett has the option of reopening discussion if he so chooses.

**Public Education and Outreach** – 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration: Progress reports for the projects agreed upon at the December meeting:

Tree Cookie – Inspected the stand made for the cookie and discussed options for placing a timeline on the cookie. Considered a recommendation to have a life-size poster of the cookie that could be used for displaying timeline(s), for the public adding to the timelines, and for display purposes where the cookie isn't set up. Agreed that it would be good to have a smaller, young cookie to represent the seventeen years after 1999 (the year the hemlock blew over in a storm). Agreed that minimal moving of the cookie display is preferred in order to not damage the borrowed cookie. Agreed that it would be displayed at Town Meeting (with minimal dates and a request for suggestions from the public), at the Cook Library and at the Chocorua Library, if the Chocorua Library agrees. Commissioners will review the timeline options and the final design decision will be made at the March TCC meeting.

Photo Contest – Nelson has refined the particulars of the contest. The 250<sup>th</sup> Committee has offered to supply prizes to the winners.

250 Hikin' Herons – Shannon provided a sketch of the special 250<sup>th</sup> Hikin' Heron patch and a description of plans for the project. The idea is to get another 184 patches awarded to bring the total to 250. Previous patch earners can redo the trails and get the special 250<sup>th</sup> patch. Dogs have been awarded the patch in the past and they will also be eligible for the special patch. There will be an aggressive advertising push to get people on the trails.

**New Website:** Ned reported that he has made good progress in building the new TCC website with a new hosting company. He hopes to have it live by March 1<sup>st</sup>; and definitely before April.

**Student Scholarship:** Rich reported that Ed Fayle, who teaches at Kennett, is interested in the scholarship money and he feels certain that he could find some Tamworth student candidates either at Kennett or at Brett. The Commission gave Rich the go-ahead to tell Ed Fayle that TCC will commit a total of \$500 to any candidate(s) he can recommend.

**Managed Lands and Trails** – Chris Cline has hiked all the trails during the past month and she had no major maintenance issues to report.

**Adjourn** – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Shannon seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*