

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – December 12, 2016

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Commissioners present were Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, William Batchelder, Stephanie Doyle, Nelson O'Bryan, Bob Seston and Ned Beecher. Commissioners absent: none. Alternates present: John Watkins and Eric Dube.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman.

Approval of Minutes for 11/14/2016 – Moved by Chele to accept the minutes as written. Ned seconded, motion carried.

Administrative

Announcements: Received letters of thanks from Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) for donating funds for the water quality monitoring and asking if Corey Lane, GMCG Water Quality Monitor, could be on the agenda for a future Tamworth Conservation Commission (TCC) meeting. Nelson will contact him. Received notice from NH Division of Forests and Lands of denial of a request to cut more than 50% basal area along roads (Tax Map/Lot 410/6). Stephanie reported that a number of Donna Ulitz's class at the Brett School took on the Hikin' Heron challenge. Donna asked if TCC could make a presentation of the patches to the students at the school. Chele will contact her. Nelson announced that TCC might need more alternates when John Watkins becomes a full commissioner in March. He would appreciate any suggestions for candidates.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – Bob reported that \$4299.12 of the annual budget is unexpended to date.

2017 Annual Budget – Nelson reported that the budget meeting with the Selectmen was very short. They asked for the reason for the increase in staff salary. Nelson explained that the Administrative Assistant has been given a heavier work load.

Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) – Ned presented a draft of the petition for increasing the maximum amount of LUCT funds that shall be deposited in the Conservation Fund. The petition has been reviewed and edited by some of the commissioners and by Rick Sager, Town Attorney. Ned also presented a fact sheet for explaining LUCT, the Conservation Fund, and how the funds are used. The petition was passed around for signing. Steve Gray asked that the petition be delivered to the Selectman's office as soon as possible (ASAP) so they can get it reviewed by State officials.

Susan Morse Presentation – Ned moved that TCC authorize payment of \$211.14 to Wonalcet Out Door Club (WODC) for TCC's share in covering costs for “The Cougar Returns to the East” presentation by Susan Morse. Chele seconded, motion carried.

John Harris Presentation – Ned moved that TCC authorize payment of \$50.00 to cover the application fee for a grant to pay for “North with the Spring”, a presentation by John Harris, co-sponsored by TCC and the Cook Memorial Library, to be presented March 29, 2017. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Selectmen – Steve Gray reminded the commission that petitioned articles should be delivered to Darlene McWhirter at the Selectmen's Office ASAP.

Planning Board – Eric reported that the Board approved a waiver for Fairpoint to cut more trees along Cleveland Hill Road. The Board also had Fairpoint move one pole, which reduced the number of trees that needed to be cut.

Conservation Easements – Nelson reported that Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) did not receive the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP) grant for purchasing the proposed Albee-Moscato property. David White has asked Tom Howard if the landowners would consider a price based on an appraisal. Tom said he would ask them but he wanted to wait for LRCT to formally decline the asking price that is still on the table.

Easement Monitoring – Chele reported that the monitoring reports are all completed or will be completed shortly.

Managed Lands and Trails – Discussed trail maintenance issues. The back loop on the Remick trails need blazes. Waterfowl Haven does not have someone to mow the field; TCC will have to find a new mower. Some type of wet area crossing could be put on the middle trail at Waterfowl Haven. There is one blowdown on the Black Spruce trails.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Ned seconded, meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.