

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – October 15, 2018
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, John Watkins, Charlie Townsend, Stephanie Doyle and Chele Miller. Commissioners absent: none. Alternates present: Dexter Harding and Lucy Gatchell. Nelson assigned Lucy to fill the vacant seat.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman

Approval of Minutes for 09/10/2018 – Batch noted that Kit Morgan's name was misspelled in the Land Conservation section and Stephanie could not have seconded the motion to adjourn because she wasn't present. The original notes taken at the meeting indicate that Dexter seconded the motion to adjourn. Stephanie moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Batch seconded, motion carried.

Administrative/Announcements

Received a New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) flyer advertising the annual meeting on November 3 and received the latest Lakes Region Conservation Trust newsletter.

Received Letter from North Country Soil Services reporting that the construction of the pond subject to New Hampshire Wetlands Bureau permit #2015-02779 (Harold Cook, Mountain Road) has been completed.

Received three NH-DES forestry notifications: Tax Maps/Lots 413/7.1, 422/24 and 422/4,26.

Stephanie announced that The Mushroom Company is hosting a mushroom walk led by Rick Van de Poll on October 28. Meet at the end of Irene's Way in White Lake State Park at 10:00 am.

Nelson announced that Jill Emerson, of Green Mountain Conservation Group, will attend the November TCC meeting to discuss water quality monitoring.

Treasurer's Report/Finance

John reported that the most recent statement shows a remaining balance of \$5510.08, about 69% of the annual budget.

NHACC membership dues of \$275 is due. Chele moved to authorize payment. John seconded, motion carried.

Board of Selectmen – Steve Gray reported that much of the recycling is currently costing the town more to recycle than it would to have it hauled to a landfill. This is partly due to many towns switching to single-stream recycling and exacerbated by international trade wars that are happening now. The Selectmen voted to discontinue recycling co-mingled (plastic and steel cans), glass and mixed paper. There will be a formal announcement before it goes into effect.

Steve also reminded everyone that the state and federal election is on November 6.

Land Conservation

The Community School – The Planning Board did a preliminary review of the TCC application for a boundary line adjustment between the Jackman Pond Wildlife Area and Community School property. They decided that surveying only the area to be swapped and tying it in with the nearest corner of the common property line would be sufficient to review the application. Paul King has been contracted to do the surveying and to shepherd it through the Planning Board process.

Alt Lot 414/58 – Nelson reported that he met with the Selectmen and discussed the Alt brother's proposal to donate an easement on the lot. The Selectmen had no objections. The Alts had their lawyer write up an easement that included the abutting lot that already has an easement. The new easement is more restrictive than the original easement on the abutting lot. The Tamworth town attorney has reviewed the easement. He found no problems with the proposed easement but, because the proposed easement will supersede an existing easement, it must be reviewed by the office of the NH Attorney General. The town attorney is taking care of that.

Payne Lot 411/34 – Grace Payne is interested in donating a conservation easement on this 35 acre lot. TCC staff has walked the lot and written up a Conservation Value Assessment. The Conservation Lands Review Committee has reviewed and discussed the proposed easement and found that the lot has value as a buffer to the fire tower and TCC trails in Hemenway State Forest; Betty's Path is within 100 feet of the Payne property, which is surrounded by the state forest on three sides. Nelson has talked with Grace and she is uncertain how much of the property surrounding her house she would want to hold out and she wants to learn more about conservation easements before she makes a decision. A survey would be required to delineate any held out areas. It appears that if TCC and Grace Payne come to an agreement to proceed, the easement won't be accomplished until next year.

Public Education and Outreach

Susan Morse Presentation – Chele reported that Sue Morse will be doing a “living with bears” presentation at the Brett School on February 15, starting at 5:00 pm. It will be free to the public with donations accepted/suggested. The following day (a Saturday) Sue will do two interpretive walks; \$20 per person with prior registration. This event is co-sponsored with Wonalancet Out Door Club.

Summer Camp Committee – Nelson, Chele, Dexter, Charlie and Kit are serving on the committee. They are in the process of investigating everything else available in town concerning youth programs. There's a possibility of doing a cooperative program with Tin Mountain Conservation Center. They are also investigating transportation (passenger vans or school buses) for transporting campers to various locations, as well as “after care” availability for campers who need it.

SPARCnet – Cover boards have been obtained (thank you, Eric); they are in the process of being set up in two salamander study plots in Remick Natural Area. Data loggers have been purchased (thank you, Nelson) and they are programmed and ready to be deployed. Set up will be completed before the snow flies and sampling can begin in the spring.

Easement Monitoring – Once again, Batch is the first to submit an annual monitoring report. Monitoring assignments have been confirmed. Now is the time to do it.

Managed Lands and Trails

Fire Tower – Nelson has replaced the broken step on the fire tower.

Hemenway Kiosk – Lucy has collected a map and Dana Steele's poem for the kiosk. She has a historical article that needs to be condensed. Nelson will tackle that.

There had been some talk about having a trail on the Behr property in the village. Karl Behr has had some second thoughts about having an official trail on the property. So TCC won't be invited to participate in that in the foreseeable future.

Bearcamp Farm Fields – The eastern and western fields (north side of Route 25) are no longer being mowed. The conservation easements give TCC the right to mow them. Ned Beecher will contact Lakes Region Conservation Trust to see if they are agreeable to having any local folks mow the fields for the hay, or any other arrangement for keeping the fields open.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Stephanie seconded (I'm pretty sure it was Stephanie this time). Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.