

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – July 13, 2015

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, Rich Gerard, Shannon Maes and Bob Seston. Commissioners absent: Ned Beecher. Alternates present: John Watkins and Eric Dube. Nelson appointed Eric to sit in Ned's empty seat.

Also present: David White and Sam Martin.

Approval of Minutes for 05/11/2015 – Batch moved to accept with the correction to the spelling of Betty Steele's name. Shannon seconded. Motion carried with an abstention from Eric.

Announcements

NH-DES: Three acknowledgments of completed forestry notification forms, one request for further information and one notification of a pending violation inspection.

The annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is August 1st. Sue Stowbridge is still looking for one more volunteer to work 8:30 to noon.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – To date, TCC has spent \$1240.86, roughly 10% of annual budget.

Planning Board – Eric reported that the Planning Board has been recently been looking at a boundary line adjustment at Chocorua Ski and Beach and a conceptual plan for a subdivision to separate the Chocorua dam from the house that is currently on the same lot.

Conservation Easements

Bearcamp Valley Farm – Eastern Field: Ned has found anonymous donor(s) to cover the cost for Lakes Region Conservation Trust to purchase the Eastern Field from Bob Floyd. Many accolades to Ned from the Commissioners, particularly those on the CLRC.

Sandonato Lot – North end of Pease Hill road, west side; lot 405/7. David White described the process of discussions with Sandonato concerning putting a conservation easement on his property and holding out a small amount of land around the buildings. David believes Sandonato is sincere in his wish to protect the property but reluctant to spend any money for an opinion of value, which is required before any conservation organization would be willing to make a purchase offer. Tom Howard gave a firm quote of \$750 to supply an opinion of value. A Wonalancet group has committed \$375 toward Mr. Howard's fee. Eric moved to authorize the expenditure of \$375 from the Conservation Fund to cover half the cost of an opinion of value on the Sandonato lot to be provided by Tom Howard. Batch seconded. Discussion ensued concerning the conservation value of the property and the reasons why the landowner will not pay the fee. Motion carried.

Andrew Kennett Property, lot 414/32 – Nelson reported that Crosby Kennett is acting as agent for his brother, Andrew. SPNHF is interested in the property because it abuts their Porter-Rogerson Forest. There are still a number of issues to investigate before a decision is made.

Vandalism on Cave Easement – Two steel gates were recently damaged and an all-terrain vehicle passed through the property, leaving ruts in a wetland. Members of the Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club were quick to respond and they have repaired the gates. The vandalism has been reported to the Tamworth Police.

Public Education and Outreach

250th Celebration Ideas: Shannon reiterated her support for having a Hikin' Heron promotion as part of the Sestercentennial (Semiquincentennial, Quarter-millennial) Anniversary. The Administrative Assistant reported that the pine cookies salvaged by Nelson and Chele from the roadside clearing at Big Pines natural area were approximately 150 years old. John Watkins said he might be able to get a pine cookie from a forestry job in Chocorua that is about 48" in diameter and possibly older. Or he might be able to get a hemlock cookie that would be even older.

Managed Lands and Trails

Fire Tower View Clearing – Rich reported that Bob Hardy has marked the trees for removal. He requires that all slash shall be removed. There are not enough saw logs to make a sale worth the paperwork but whoever contracts to do the removal might discount the bid by the value of any saw logs. Agreed that there should be a public hearing before the work begins. Nelson will put it on the August meeting agenda.

Fire Tower Painting – Daylan Harry (I fully expect to be corrected on this name) will be contracted to scrape, sand, prime and paint the wood portion of the fire tower as soon as he demonstrates that he is adequately insured. Chele moved to authorize payments up to a total of \$2000, to be made in installments during the work, for painting the fire tower. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Trail Maintenance – Much work done on the May 30 trail work day. Relocated trail around blowdown on the Betty Steele Loop; Waterfowl Haven, Remick and Black Spruce natural areas are cleared. The main question mark is Bearcamp River trail on the Fish and Game property.

Big Tree Hike – In June it was calculated that the pine on the Betty Steele Loop is 152 feet high and has an impressive spread but, as a single stem tree, not as much as some of the wolf pines in New Hampshire. One or more pines in Chocorua are over 140 feet high.

Mason Conservation Commission Letter – Received a letter from Bob Dillberger, of the Mason Conservation Commission, stating opposition to a proposed natural gas pipeline along the southern border of New Hampshire. He is asking other conservation Commissions to sign the letter, to be sent to Governor Hassan. After discussion, it was agreed that many of the commissioners were not comfortable with everything in the letter but all agreed with the first part dealing with infrastructure in conservation land. Eric moved that the TCC as a whole endorse the first section of the letter, send it to the Governor and copy Mr. Dillberger. Shannon seconded, motion carried. Nelson will get the letter together and check with Mr. Dillberger to see if this will suit him.

Other business – Batch conveyed the thanks of the Barnstormers for use of the TCC pop-up tent that some (most?) commissioners did not know existed.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Eric seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.