

## **Tamworth Conservation Commission**

Draft Minutes – December 14, 2015

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

**Call to Order** – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, Bob Seston, Shannon Maes and Ned Beecher. Alternates present: Eric Dube and John Watkins.

Also present: Sam Martin.

**Approval of Minutes for 10/12/2015** – Moved by Ned to accept the minutes as written. Shannon seconded, motion carried.

### **Announcements**

Received completed Hikin' Heron form; Shannon will process it.

Received thank you note from Green Mountain Conservation Group for TCC's contribution to the water quality monitoring project.

### **Treasurer's Report/Financial**

Bob reported that, to date, TCC has expended \$7683.85; \$4295.15 is left of the annual budget.

The Selectmen reviewed the proposed 2016 TCC annual budget. They vetoed the increase in staff salary because they do not expect to have a cost of living increase in the town meeting warrant. The remainder of the line items were not changed.

Bob moved to authorize payment of a \$495 bill from Mike Davis for structural work on the fire tower. TCC had previously authorized up to \$300 for a welding repair but Mike couldn't weld it and he had to drill holes and use bolts to complete the repair, thus raising the cost. Ned seconded, motion carried.

Received request for reimbursement of \$140.70 from Nelson O'Bryan for materials to rebuild the foot bridge on the west end of the Jackman Pond North Trail. Ned Moved to authorize reimbursement, Shannon seconded, motion carried.

**Planning Board** – Eric reported that the Planning Board has been working with the Selectmen to get changes in real estate ownership recorded in the tax roles more quickly. This would improve abutter notification for applications that come before the board. The board is also working on providing a more stress free atmosphere at their meetings, for the benefit of the applicants that have to endure the meetings.

### **Conservation Easements**

Kennett Osgood Road Parcel – Nelson reported that SPNHF has hired an appraiser, for which TCC agreed to pay up to \$1100, but the appraisal has yet to be completed.

**Public Education and Outreach** – 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration: The Commission reviewed the proposed celebration projects and reached the following conclusions:

Tree Cookie – Chele will check with Scott Aspinall to see if he has a hemlock cookie that might be as much as 250 years old. Ned will check a hemlock blowdown at Big Pines that might be usable. Worst case, one of the pine cookies from Chinook Trail can be used.

Photo Contest – Nelson will spearhead this. Different categories with prizes. Display at the Library or somewhere. Photos must be 2016.

250 Hikin' Herons – Shannon will take the numerous ideas and suggestions and come up with something that works, whether the count will be individuals, legs, toes... whatever. There will be special patches!

Continuation of Betty Steele's History – Nelson will ask John Mersfelder if he is interested.

**TCC Website** – Ned proposed changing website hosts. He would like to find one that is easier to manage and wouldn't be appreciably different in cost compared to the current host. Bob moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$200 to purchase a new web hosting account. Batch seconded. Motion carried.

### **Easement Monitoring**

Eric reported that he is working with SPNHF so that they and TCC are using the same identifiers (names) for the various Alt easements.

Chele reported that the 2015 monitoring appears to be done. There are still one or more reports that need to be submitted. Monitors should get the reports to the Administrative Assistant. The Hayfield easement has an encroachment: shingles and other refuse that appears to have been placed by an abutter. Chele is working on contacting them. There are a few volunteers willing to help the abutter and the easement landowner remove the material.

Nelson reported a dumping encroachment on the Perkins (Community School) easement. He has contacted the abutter and the material will be removed soon. *[As of December 16, 2015, the material has been removed.]*

Rich reported that the Bearcamp Valley Farm landowner had pulled some of the rear pins marking an easement hold-out area because livestock and farm equipment travel through that area. These pins should be replaced and set flush or below ground level.

**Wetlands** – Batch and Ned inspected the site of the NH-DES wetland application on tax map/lot 203/14. The intent is to expand an existing farm pond and lower the berms. The finished product will look more natural. They found no problems or concerns with the application as submitted.

### **Managed Lands and Trails**

Tamworth Outing Club Kiosks – TOC plans to remove their two kiosks (sign boards) in Hemenway State Forest because they no longer maintain ski trails there. They asked if TCC had any use for them. The kiosks are there with the knowledge and permission of Bob Hardy (NH Division of Forests). Agreed to tell TOC that TCC will assume use and responsibility for the kiosk at the four corners (aka Schoolhouse Corner) but TCC is not interested in the kiosk down by the AMC cabin.

Fire Tower – Dave Bowles has asked for more trees to be cut down for view purposes. Bob Hardy has inspected the work and decided that no more trees need to be cut. He added that the trees in question will be taken during the next timber harvest in that area.

Trail Maintenance – Shannon reported that the section of the Betty Steele Loop Trail along the river needs work or relocation. Others agreed that there is a problem there. Nelson will schedule a time to inspect the trail and flag a proposed relocation route. Bob Hardy will be asked to inspect the proposed route before any work is done. Shannon also mentioned that the map box at Big Pines has been “smashed” and there are no trail maps/guides in it. Batch has a spare box. He will inspect the smashed box and repair or replace as necessary and he will probably put some trail guides in it.

**Other Business** – There was no other business because the Commissioners were eyeing the quickly diminishing pile of Christmas cookies that Ned had brought. The Commissioners out of easy grabbing range obviously wanted the meeting to end. Thank you, Ned, and Merry Christmas.

**Adjourn** – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Rich seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*