

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – January 13, 2014

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson called meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan (Chair), Bob Seston, Ned Beecher, Rich Gerard, Chele Miller, and William Batchelder. Absent commissioners: None. Alternates present were Eric Dube and John Watkins. Nelson appointed Eric to sit in the vacant commissioner's chair.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Becca Boyden, Planning Board; Mark Lane; and Sam Martin.

Approval of Minutes for 12/09/13 – Batch moved to accept. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Administrative –

Announcements – Received three copies of NH-DES Complete Forestry Notifications; Tax maps/lots 407/112, C1/12, 420/7 & 9. Received copies of NH-DES letters to Chocorua Valley Lumber concerning compliance of the Restoration Plan Approval and to Ambrose Brothers (the new owners) reiterating the conditions of the Restoration Plan Approval. Tax maps/lots 205/1-3 and 206/40 & 41.

Treasurer's Report – Bob reported that TCC expended a total of \$5604.90 of the 2013 budget. On December 31 the Conservation Fund had \$61,015.45. An additional \$10,000 loaned out for deposit on the Floyd conservation easement is expected to be put back into the Fund later this year.

Representative Reports

Selectmen – Steve Gray stated anything he had to say would best be brought up during the discussion on conservation easements.

Planning Board – Becca Boyden reported on a site walk around Hollow Hill Road to inspect proposed tree removal work by PSNH for extending power lines along the road; an application for a boundary line adjustment on Route 25 is pending further research by the land surveyor to look into an abutter's claim of ownership; Lianne Prentice has been appointed as an alternate on the Planning Board.

Conservation Lands Review Committee – Ned reported that there have been three CLRC meetings since the last TCC meeting. Two conservation easements were finalized on December 27: Chris Alt's property on Bunker Hill Road and the Freeto property (Gilman West) on Hackett Hill Road. Fundraising assistance to SPNH for Reich and Gilman West has begun; about \$30,000 has been raised so far. The TCC website has been updated to include a page on the Reich-Gilman West project. CLRC will have a display table at the next two Farmers' Markets. The Bearcamp Valley Farm southern lots have a signed purchase and sale agreement. Jim Hambrook should have a draft of the survey by the end of this week. The landowner has obtained a forestry wetlands permit from DES and he and his agent are working on a forest management plan, which will be a requirement in the conservation easement.

Expenses: Bob reported receiving two bills related to the easement transactions completed in December: \$315 from Sagar and Haskell for review of the easement language, and \$146.12 to be reimbursed to Ned for recording fees at CCRD. Bob moved to authorize payment of these two expenses. Rich seconded. Motion carried.

Nelson reported that the original deeds stamped by CCRD are now safely in the town vault.

Public Education and Outreach – General discussion about Naturally Curious (Mary Holland); Nature's Child (in Wolfeboro this coming Thursday evening); Mike Cline at the CML in February; Tin Mountain Conservation Center programs; NH Fish and Game workshops; getting people, especially children, out of the house and in nature. Nelson suggested that a review of and brainstorming about TCC's involvement in encouraging the public to experience nature (hosting, sponsoring, etc.) be put on the agenda for one of the next two meetings. He will not be able to attend the February meeting.

Easement Monitoring – Rich reported all is well; he needs to send Cave and Alt reports to SPNHF.

Managed Lands – Nelson reported further developments concerning Dave Bowles' request to have some trees blocking the view of the fire tower removed. The tower was granted to the Town in 1977; the Town also acquired rights to use the R.O.W.s for maintenance and to remove trees with approval of the District Forester (only trees that he/she marks can be removed). Bob Hardy inspected the area and marked about 20 trees that he thought would give the tower a clear view if they were removed. His only stipulation was that all slash should be chipped. Dave Bowles asked Vincent Cook for an estimate; Vincent said it would cost two to three thousand dollars. Ned asked (1) should TCC review the marked trees? (2) should we get before and after photographs? (3) should there be a signed final agreement? Yes to all three. Nelson is on the Selectmen's agenda for January 16th. Ned moved to recommend to the Selectmen that they assist in going forward with the Bowles-Hardy tree removal plan. Chele seconded. Motion carried.

Other business – Mark Lane remarked that the Page Hill views are closing in. Would reopening those views be something in which the TCC could get involved? The Town holds a public R.O.W. for accessing the top of the hill. Agreed to check the deed to see if there are any maintenance clauses. Ned thought that the landowner might be cooperative if approached even if the Town didn't have any maintenance rights.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Ned seconded, motion carried 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.