

## **Tamworth Conservation Commission**

Draft Minutes – February 10, 2014

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

**Call to Order** – Ned called meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioners present were Ned Beecher (Vice-chair), Bob Seston, Rich Gerard, and William Batchelder. Absent commissioners: Nelson O'Bryan and Chele Miller. Alternates present were Shannon Maes, Eric Dube and John Watkins. Nelson appointed the three present alternates to sit in the vacant commissioner's chairs.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Mark Lane; John Mersfelder; and Sam Martin.

**Approval of Minutes for 01/13/2014** – Batch moved to accept with the correction of the spelling of Rick Sager's last name. Rich seconded, motion carried.

### **Administrative –**

**Announcements** – Received from GMCG acknowledgment of support for water quality testing in 2013 and request for support in 2014; this is already included in the proposed budget submitted to Selectmen. Received invitation for TCC to join NH Assoc. of Natural Resource Scientists. A conservation commission membership is \$20/year; benefits include discounts for attending events such as seminars and workshops. Agreed to think it over and discuss at next meeting.

**Membership** – The terms for Ned, Bob and Rich expire this year. All three have agreed to serve another term. Charlie Townsend's term as Alternate expires this year and he is willing to continue. Ned reported that Nelson recommends that Shannon be appointed to the empty seat on the Commission. Shannon is willing to step up to full membership. Eric moved to recommend to the Selectmen that they reappoint all members with expiring terms and appoint Shannon as a full commissioner. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Bob reported that payments approved at the January meeting have been charged to the 2013 budget, which means that the total TCC expenditures for 2013 were \$6066.02. There will be a review and public hearing on the entire proposed town budget at the Selectmen's meeting at 6 pm on Thursday, February 13.

### **Representative Reports**

**Selectmen** – Steve Gray reported that the Selectmen have visited the fire tower to inspect the proposed view cutting. They will probably discuss this at the next meeting. Mike Cline will be giving a presentation on the primal forest at CML (presented by Tamworth Historical Society), Wednesday, February 12.

**Planning Board** – Becca Boyden could not attend this meeting. Steve Gray reported that the application for a boundary line adjustment along Route 25 in South Tamworth was approved at the last Planning Board meeting.

### **Conservation Lands Review Committee**

**Gilman-Reich Fundraising** – Ned reported that CLRC has been meeting regularly during the fundraising effort in coordination with SPNHF. He has added a few things to the website. At last tally they are more than halfway to the goal. There will be a field trip to the properties and a presentation at the Community School starting at 1 pm, Sunday, February 16.

**Bearcamp Valley Farm South Lots** – The survey is completed and the conservation easement boundary lines have been set. Lots 7 and 9 each have about one third acre around the houses held out of the easement. The Commission reviewed the utilities, subdivision and recreation

clauses and other unique and pertinent clauses in the easement. It was noted that the Conservation Fund has some money left over from the Eastern Field project that could be applied to transaction costs for this project.

Bob moved that TCC recommend to the Selectmen that they accept this easement. Rich seconded. Motion carried. Ned will meet with Bob Floyd tomorrow so it is possible that the Selectmen would have an opportunity to sign the easement on Thursday.

The funds for the easement purchase being supplied by an anonymous trust will probably not be available until after closing with the grantor. A \$30,000 payment is due at the time of closing. Bob moved that TCC pay \$30,000 due at the signing of the easement in anticipation of the funds being replaced by gift from an anonymous fund. Eric seconded. Motion carried.

Payment is due on an invoice for \$573.34 from Theresa Swanick for title search and consultation. Bob moved to pay the invoice out of the 2014 operating budget. John seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Education and Outreach** – Continuing (from last month's meeting) the discussion about TCC's involvement in encouraging the public to experience nature (hosting, sponsoring, etc.): Ned suggested a repeat of last year's vernal pools presentation. Chris Conrod would be delighted to lead another vernal pool outing in April.

**Easement Monitoring** – Rich reported that he has been in contact with Steve Walker of NH Office of Energy and Planning (NH-OEP), which holds an interest in easements acquired with State funds through the Land Conservation Investment Program; specifically: Perkins Farm (TCS), Cave and Aspinall. NH-OEP monitors these properties once every six years. Steve plans to set a date for a site visit with Rich sometime later this year.

**Managed Lands** – As mentioned above by Steve Gray, the fire tower view clearing proposal is in the hands of the Selectmen now.

**Other business** – Verbal complaint received. A view lane has been opened or reopened down to the west shore of Chocorua Lake, including extensive cutting within fifty feet of the shoreline. This work could possibly be a violation of the NH Shoreland Protection Act (NHSPA). The landowners filed a forestry wetlands notification form with the State and received approval (copied to TCC). They may have interpreted that approval as covering all the work done by the logging contractor but it doesn't address specific requirements of the NHSPA. It may be that this view lane would be “grandfathered” under provisions of the NHSPA. This matter is not a formal concern of TCC (it should be addressed at the State level) but it was agreed by the Commission that it would be good to learn the answer to the grandfathering question so that TCC could answer any future questions or concerns regarding provisions of the NHSPA. Rich agreed to research this at the State level and report back to the Commission.

**Adjourn** – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Shannon seconded, motion carried 9:08 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*