

## **Tamworth Conservation Commission**

Draft Minutes – August 11, 2014

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

**Call to Order** – Nelson called meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Bob Seston, Shannon Maes, Rich Gerard, and William Batchelder. Commissioners absent: Ned Beecher and Chele Miller. Alternates present: Eric Dube. Nelson appointed Eric to sit in one of the vacant seats.

Also present: Jim Hidden, Selectman; Tom Howard, agent for Harry and Doris Thompson Trust; Nathaniel Winship & Hope Requardt, prospective buyers of Thompson property; John Mersfelder, Conservation Lands Review Committee; and Sam Martin.

**Approval of Minutes for 06/16/2014** – Batch moved to accept. Eric seconded. Rich pointed out that, under Public Education and Outreach, “NTOA Workshop” should read “NHTOA Workshop.” Voted to accept minutes as corrected.

### **Administrative –**

**Announcements** – Carroll County Conservation District will be hosting an erosion control workshop on August 19. Received copy of letter from Karen Galle to NH Wetlands Board concerning investigation of a reported wetlands violation. Received copy of Complete Forestry Notification from NH-DES concerning notification by John Roberts for work to be done on Tax Map/Lot 403/10.

### **Thompson Property Conservation Easement –**

Nelson explained the purpose of this agenda item. Trustees of the Harry and Doris Thompson Trust wish to place a conservation easement on the 21-1/2 +/- Acre property on Old Route 25. There will be a two acre hold-out area around the house. Lakes Region Conservation Trust will be the grantee of the easement. The trustees intend to sell the property after completing the conservation easement. Two decisions TCC needs to make: (1) Should the Town accept LRCT's offer of executory interest in the easement and (2) Is TCC interested in helping to cover the land survey costs?

Tom Howard provided details on the project. Harry Thompson's wishes were that the land remain suitable for agriculture. The two acre hold-out area does have specific restrictions; it allows certain home occupation uses; it could be subdivided from the rest of the property. Grantees have limited rights to use property for nature walks, education, etc. N. Winship and H. Requardt, potential buyers of the property, intend to operate a farm there.

Shannon moved to recommend to the Selectmen that, pending review by the Town Attorney, the Town should accept executory interest in the conservation easement. Eric seconded; motion carried.

The estimated cost for the land survey is \$1800. TCC has contributed toward survey costs in other easement projects. Rich moved that TCC agree to contribute up to \$1000 toward covering survey costs, to be taken from the Conservation Fund. Batch seconded. Discussion followed concerning past precedent, the low cost of this survey and the fact that this is a donated easement benefiting the town; LRCT will be covering attorney fees and raising any needed stewardship funding. Shannon moved to amend the motion to \$1800. Eric seconded. Motion to amend carried. The amended motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report/Financial** – Bob reported that, to date, approximately \$2200 of the annual budget has been spent; about \$4000 remain. The monthly statement does not show a bill from R. Sagar being paid out of the operating fund. Bob will check to see if the bill has been paid and if it was mistakenly paid out of the Conservation Fund.

Bill in hand for R. Sagar's review of the Reich conservation easement: \$236.25. Bob moved to authorize payment to be taken from the operating fund; Eric seconded, motion carried.

GMCG appeal for annual donation to cover water quality monitoring: \$900.00. This is a line item in the operating fund. Bob moved to authorize payment; Shannon seconded, motion carried.

Bob reported that the current balance in the Conservation Fund is about \$63,500.

### **Conservation Lands Review Committee**

**Gilman West – Reich** – The Reich conservation easement was signed on June 19 of this year.

**Alt Easement Consolidation** – Still awaiting SPNHF decision concerning the Alt proposal to consolidate conservation easements and reassign Grantee status to TCC.

### **Further Announcements / Notifications**

Received copy of NH-DES Complete Forestry Notification for AB Thompson Trust, Tax Map/Lot 205/5&7.

Received copy of NH-DES Complete Forestry Notification for Mersfelder Revocable Trust, Tax Map/Lot 410/11 & 406/55.

Received copy of NH-DES amended wetlands approval for permit 2004-00377, for Motorsports Holdings, LLC, Tax Map/Lot 208/23.

Received copies of NH-DES wetlands approval permit 2014-0057 and additional information provided by the applicants, G. W. Kimball and S. P. Bryant Kimball, Tax Map/Lot 420/10.

Received copy of NH-DES Notification of complaint of possible violation, Tax Map/Lot 215/9. This notification is the one referenced in the above Announcements section.

**Easement Monitoring** – Steve Walker, NH-OEP, did site inspections on the Cave, Aspinall and Perkins easements during the past month. These easements are monitored by the State because they were acquired through the Land Conservation Investment Program.

**Managed Lands and Trails** – Bearcamp River Trail relocation: Work is being done by others to get the Tamworth portion of the Bearcamp River Trail from the Route 113 bridge near Bennett Corner west to the Sandwich town line moved to the south side of the river. If agreement can be reached with the landowners, TCC has been asked if the Commission is willing to take maintenance responsibility for this section of the trail. Shannon moved to accept maintenance responsibility for this section of the Bearcamp River Trail if it is moved to the south side of the river and if the trail is consistent with the existing conservation easements. Eric seconded; motion carried.

Mowing Fields -- The Bearcamp Field and the field at Waterfowl Haven should be mowed annually. Nelson will see about getting this done.

**Adjourn** – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Rich seconded, motion carried 8:20 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*