

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – August 14, 2017

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, Stephanie Doyle, John Watkins and William Batchelder. Commissioners absent: Ned Beecher. Alternates present were Charlie Townsend and Lucy Gatchell. Nelson appointed Lucy to fill the empty seat.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Kevin Philibert.

Approval of Minutes for 07/10/2017 – Moved by Batch to accept the minutes as written. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Administrative Announcements:

NH-DES Permitting – Received copy of Complete Forestry Notification for Tax Map/Lot 402/3. Received copy of Shoreland Impact Permit for Tax Map/Lot 201/27. Received copy of NH-DOT application for Shoreland Impact Permit to dig drainage ditch on south side of Route 113 between intersection of Route 25 and Butler's Bridge (Whittier Village).

Sustainable Forestry Initiative – Received announcement of workshop concerning SFI certification of state forests to be held in Lancaster on September 22.

Household Hazardous Waste Day – Nelson reported that the HHWD at Moultonborough and Ossipee were both very busy. Final report is not out yet but it was probably the most successful collection ever.

Bowditch View Project – Nelson reported that he contacted Chocorua Lake Conservancy and asked if they needed any assistance in protecting the eight acre view property at the top of the hill on Route 25. They replied that the project is progressing and that the property would be available for public enjoyment.

Green Mountain Conservation Group – Nelson reported that GMCG representatives are tentatively scheduled to attend the TCC meeting in September. The purpose is to discuss groundwater protection.

Treasurer's Report – John reported that there is 57% of the budget left. Line items are within budget except for the scholarship fund, which is just barely over budget. It was noted that TCC has not received any acknowledgment from the recipients of the scholarships for the Fish and Game Barry Conservation Camp. Rich will inquire about that.

Selectmen – Steve Gray reported that Dave Bowles thinks the view cut recently done at the fire tower is not adequate for spotting fires. Nelson will contact Dave or Chief Colcord to discuss options for future view clearing.

Land Conservation – Nelson reported that the Community School Board of Directors has met and approves of the proposal to put easements on the property on the north side of Bunker Hill Road. They are investigating the mortgage provisions to see if the bank will approve it.

Public Education and Outreach

Letter Boxing – Stephanie reported that it would cost \$6.99 to purchase a TCC stamp for use in the letter boxing station(s) to be put on TCC managed lands. She will go ahead and make the purchase.

Mushroom Walk – Stephanie scheduled the mushroom walk for September 3 from 9:00 to 11:30 am at Big Pines. She will advertise it; the Administrative Assistant will post it on the web

site. Kevin Philibert remarked that he has noticed that some organized mushroom walks over-pick the mushrooms, especially close to roads and trails and sometimes there are noticeable piles of discarded mushrooms. He recommended that a buffer area between picking and roads or trails be honored. Stephanie was agreeable to that.

Easement Monitoring – Chele announced that she has set a date with Jim Kelly, an abutter to the Hayfield easement on Whittier Road, to remove some discarded shingles and other refuse that is on easement land behind Jim's house. It was apparently there when he bought the property but he is agreeable to helping remove the refuse. Day and time are Monday, August 21, 2 pm. Contact Chele if you would like to help.

Wetlands – Nelson reported receiving a draft plan for review from NH-DOT for the replacement of the Route 113 bridge over the Bearcamp River in Whittier (aka Butler's Bridge). The plan is to replace the bridge one lane at a time, so there will be a lane open throughout the entire process. It will be moved upstream just a bit, but the total movement will be less than the width of the bridge. Timing of the project does not appear to be discussed in the plan.

Managed Lands and Trails

Black Spruce Bogs Access – Kevin Philibert stated his concern about the State reclassifying Irene's Way as a Class III road and the implications of White Lake becoming entirely a "State Park Pond." He also pointed out that the State's actions put access to the Black Spruce Bog Ponds in jeopardy. The State recently sent a letter to the Selectmen that includes five points showing the intentions of the Division of Parks:

1. Keep the road open 24/7 for this season; parking allowed on the north side.
2. Regular patrols of the road.
3. Work with Town to deal with any illegal activities or disturbances.
4. Meet with Selectmen soon to coordinate plans.
5. The division of Parks reserves all rights of management.

Kevin urged the TCC to work to assure the right of public access is not lost to the town trails and natural areas. Nelson will write a letter to the Selectmen prior to their meeting with the State.

Other Business – Charlie asked about Revision Energy and the Town of Tamworth working together to create a municipal solar power system. Steve Gray replied that Revision Energy has contacted the Selectmen but it is strictly in an early discussion mode.

Nelson stated that the Waterfowl Haven field is due to be mowed this year. He will contact Mark Streeter about that. It would be good to cut out the saplings before mowing. Contact Nelson if you are willing to help.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Chele seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.