

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – December 8, 2014

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Chele Miller, Shannon Maes, Rich Gerard, and Ned Beecher. Commissioners absent: Bob Seston. Alternates present: John Watkins and Eric Dube. Nelson appointed John to sit in the vacant seat.

Also present: John Wacker, representing Tamworth 250th Celebration Steering Committee; and Sam Martin.

Approval of Minutes for 11/10/2014 – Chele moved to accept the minutes. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

Tamworth 250th Celebration – John Wacker reported on the initial meetings of the steering committee and suggested ways in which TCC could be involved by showcasing its work and the conservation land for which it is responsible. The committee is thinking of one or more events per month from October 2015 to October 2016. At least some should be tied to each of the five specific villages in town. Possible projects/events could include publications, tours, parade float, forums, presentations. TCC decided to put this on the agenda as a regular item, create a list of ideas for projects, and to come up with a plan over the next few months.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – Nelson reported that there is approximately \$1377 remaining in the 2014 operating budget, much of which is in the administrative assistant line item. The Selectmen seemed receptive to the proposed TCC budget and are expected to recommend passing the warrant article at the March Town Meeting. \$5000 from the 2014 LUCT Tax proceeds were deposited in the Conservation Fund last week. Nelson requested a reimbursement of \$93.67 to cover the cost of paint bought for the fire tower. Ned moved to authorize payment to Nelson; Batch seconded; motion carried.

Conservation Lands Review Committee

Land Protection Celebration – Celebration scheduled for January 17, 2015. Working title is “Celebrating Tamworth's Land Conservation Legacy” but this will probably be modified because it's too broad. Starts at Community School at 1:30 pm; tour of recently protected land; back to TCS for hot drinks; then presentation coordinated by Ned (please send him slides, photos, etc. that you might have); then refreshments, socializing. Chele will invite Will Abbott the next time she speaks with him and ask if he would like to give a motivational talk. Could probably use a couple more volunteers for promotion/set up. They will receive “cool name tags”. Chele moved to authorize expending up to \$200 for expenses associated with the event. Shannon seconded. Motion carried.

Public Education and Outreach

Co-sponsored Event with Cook Library – Scheduled for January 14. Katie Callahan is lined up to give a presentation on the NH Fish and Game update of the Wildlife Action Plan. January 21 is also open at the Cook Library. Chele will talk with Amy and see if she would be interested in inviting Will Abbott for a presentation.

Easement Monitoring – There are only one or two easements that either haven't been monitored or haven't had the paperwork submitted yet. Chele will check to be sure they get done. The checklist is on top of the file cabinet at the Town Office and people can deliver finished paperwork to the mailbox or get the key from Kim and file it if they like.

Wetlands/Shoreland Protection Act

Wonalancet Chapel – The dredge and fill application has been accepted as complete by NH-DES. No word on a decision yet.

Tax Map 203-70 (old log yard on Rte 25) – The owner has not responded to letter sent by Ned last month. Work is still in progress. Ned will check with NH-DES and the Selectmen's Office to see if proper permit applications have been received.

Managed Lands and Trails – Bob has checked Waterfowl Haven; needs blazes and a few blowdowns removed. Chele has checked Black Spruce Bogs; everything looks fine.

Other Business

White Lake State Park Timber Harvest – Rich reported that a timber harvest has recently started. Part of it might be temporarily shut down until they resolve some issue concerning bat habitat. Chele mentioned that a local citizen asked her why there was no public hearing concerning this timber sale. The answer is that the State Park is in a different state agency from Bob Hardy, who manages timber sales in the state forests.

Cookies – Delicious! Thank you, Ned.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Ned seconded, motion carried 8:15 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.