

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – May 13, 2013

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson called meeting to order at 7:03pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O/Bryan, Ned Beecher, Rich Gerard, Chele Miller, Bob Seston and William Batchelder. Alternates present were Shannon Maes and John Watkins. Nelson appointed Shannon to sit in the vacant commissioner's chair.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Becca Boyden, Planning Board; Mark Lane; Sue Strowbridge, Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator; Sam Martin.

Approval of Minutes for 04/08/13 – Batch pointed out that, under Easement Monitoring, “leaning” should be changed to “learning.” Chele moved to accept with the correction, Batch seconded. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Administrative

Announcements – Nelson reported that he talked with Dom Bergen about the Planning Board members' donation to TCC in honor of Herb Cooper. Dom said that Herb is a supporter of conserving the Gilman lot and he suggested that TCC apply the donation toward expenses in conserving the Gilman West addition. Nelson supports this plan; he will send a formal thank-you to the Planning Board.

Treasurer's Report – Bob reported that, to date, about \$1000 have been expended from the operating budget. Thorne Surveyors has been paid from the Conservation Fund for their survey work on the Reich property. TCC has received a grant from NH Charitable Trust to be applied toward the Reich surveying costs. Between the grant and other donations, including monies from the Planning Board, Tamworth Lyceum and Steve Grasse, Bob has deposited a total of \$6114.72 in the Conservation Fund, all put in the Stewardship Fund. Ned asked what the total is now in the Stewardship Fund. \$13,700+. The grant money should go into the general Conservation fund to offset the payment to Thorne. Nelson has written Steve Grasse to ask if he has a preference for how his donation is spent.

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters

Sanborn Brook Permit Review – This is an expedited permit application to NH-DES Wetlands Board concerning brook trout habitat improvement. It is a continuation of previous work; the applicants (Myers, Rieser, Tin Mountain Conservation Center) plan to be treating another section of the brook. Mark Lane asked for clarification of the proposed project. It involves using downed trees to create habitat pools. It is experimental and includes a long-term population monitoring program. Chele reported that she fished the previously treated section and caught nothing but that the job was neatly done. Ned moved to recommend approval, Rich seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Mark Lane asked about the review process. Nelson and Ned explained the TCC role in an expedited state application.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Selectmen – Steve Gray discussed a training session he attended concerning trees, property lines and liability. Towns can be liable for any injuries or damage if the town is aware of a problem and does nothing about it. This also applies to trails; it's something to keep in mind. I sign that made the public aware of the problem or risk would probably be enough. Nelson asked Steve to solicit recommendations from the Selectmen concerning this issue. The tower web cam has been funded, thanks in large part to John Roberts. Concerning Chocorua Valley Lumber wetlands work, at this point it appears that the State will be doing all the monitoring. Steve said that the Town fine is still applicable.

Planning Board – Becca Boyden explained that she was out of the country for the last TCC and Planning Board meetings.

Conservation Lands Review Committee

Floyd: Progress on the parcels on the south side of Route 25. has ground to a halt. It's basically an issue of the price the owner is asking.

Reich and Gilman West: CLRC is waiting for SPNHF to start the fundraising campaign. Nelson reported that NH Charitable Trust granted \$3900 to cover half of the Reich survey costs.

Cook: Chele reported having some preliminary discussions concerning conserving this parcel.

Public Education and Outreach

Vernal Pool Presentation – The vernal pool talk and walk at the Lyceum on April 20 was well attended and received good reviews.

Joint Program – Chele explained the joint program WODC and the Historical Society did last year and asked if TCC would be interested in doing a joint program with WODC and what topics would TCC suggest. Nelson suggested something that touches on conservation and/or the natural world. Chele said that Mary Holland would be one possibility. Chele will come back to the TCC with a specific proposal.

Web Site – TCC received a bill or statement concerning the annual fee. Ned has been paying this himself and is willing to continue doing so.

Bird Walks – Ned reported that there have been three bird walks so far and they have been well attended. The annual birdathon-bloomathon is scheduled for Saturday, May 18.

Family Day Float – Will TCC have one this year? Agreed that people will bring ideas to next meeting.

Easement Monitoring – Rich reported that he and Batch visited the Bryant Mill easement along the Bearcamp River. They found all the iron pins except one, which appears to be under water.

Managed Lands and Trails – Nelson has scheduled a tentative spring work day for May 25. He has picked up the Black Spruce trail signs. Batch updated the Black Spruce trail map and he will email it to Ned to put on the web site. Chele moved to authorize Batch to buy a new map box for Black Spruce. Rich seconded. Motion carried. Discussed promoting trails; multi-town maps, Tamworth Civic News and Tamworth Exchange. The Administrative Assistant will post Hikin' Heron on the Exchange.

Landfill Monitoring – This will be done on Wednesday, May 15.

State Presentation on Timber Cutting – A timber harvest is scheduled soon for White Lake State Park. Bob Hardy is willing to do a presentation for the public. Nelson will set up a date with Bob Hardy.

Other Business – Sue Strowbridge reminded everyone that the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day will be on August 3 at Moultonborough and Ossipee. All the information is on the LRPC web site. Sue can use some volunteers for that day.

Discussion about wildlife sightings and having an online means of residents posting their sightings. More discussion about the Family Day parade. Reviewed floats and Family Day presence in previous years. Shannon suggested getting school kids involved.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Ned seconded, motion carried 8:41 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.