

# **Tamworth Conservation Commission**

Draft Minutes – April 9, 2012

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

**Call to Order** – Ned called meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Ned Beecher, William Batchelder, Bob Seston, Rich Gerard, Chele Miller and Margaret Rieser. Nelson O'Bryan was absent. Ned designated alternate Charlie Townsend to sit in for Nelson.

Also present: Bob Abraham (Selectman), Skip Nason (Planning Board), David Little (Planning Board), Greg Howard, agent for Wetlands SUP applicant.

**Approval of Minutes for 03/12/2012** – Batch moved to accept minutes with a correction in spelling from Boynton to Boyden under Planning Board Report.. Margaret seconded. Motion carried.

### **Administrative**

**Treasurer's Report** – Margaret reported no new expenditures. The quarterly statement for the Conservation Fund shows a balance of \$62,252.04.

**Announcements** – Nelson might be attending Saving Special Places conference on April 14.

**Membership** – Batch and Nelson have been reappointed by Selectmen. They should get sworn in by Town Clerk. Alternates Scott Aspinall, Bryan Berlind, and Scott Eldridge have declined reappointment. Charlie Townsend is the only alternate. Additional alternates are welcome.

**Town Survey** – Agreed to review chapters in Master Plan. Every member is requested to come to next TCC meeting with a topic from the MP for discussion.

**Town Meeting** – TCC budget was approved as requested at Town Meeting. Margaret will check with Selectmen's Office about any land use change taxes (LUCT) collected during the previous year.

**Bird Walks** – Will be held the first four Wednesdays of May; time is 7:00 am; meeting place is Townhouse parking lot. They usually go until about 9:15 but participants can leave when they need. Ned will lead; often Tim Brown serves as back-up.

### **Wetlands SUP Application – Chocorua Valley Lumber, preliminary discussion**

Chocorua Valley Lumber wetland application with state, SUP with town. State has accepted the application as complete. Planning Board has not reviewed the SUP application yet. Greg Howard: Referred to meeting with TCC on August, 2011 concerning retained impacts. Proposal was originally for a 32 ac. Sanger Brook buffer; proposed easement is now 60 acres with at least 100' minimum buffer along Sanger Brook. Plan calls for significant wetland restoration. Alteration of terrain permit has been secured on upland disturbed areas. The restoration should be completed within 5 years; somewhat depends on excavation activity. LRCT, which will hold the mitigation easement, is hammering out details of easement wording with the landowner. Plans for timber management are to be completed before easement is finalized. State can condition permits on finalization of easement. Over 200,000 sq. ft. of wetlands restoration is planned. Easement will be monumented. Work can start as soon as approvals are granted. Topsoil with some organic content is stockpiled on site; there should be enough. There is some invasive Japanese knotweed; it will be buried at least six feet during reclamation. The work will be monitored by Greg and/or Sean Sweeney, a hydrologist working on the application. Original hydrology can't be restored because of mill yard; what once flowed toward the southeastern corner of lot will be redirected toward Sanger Brook. Planning Board will review application for completion on Apr 25; TCC Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee will meet and do site walk shortly after; will coordinate with PB to get all parties out on one site walk.

### **Administrative continued**

**Build-out Analysis** – David Little reported that Town Meeting approved funding for the Planning Board's build-out analysis. The intention is to use the results of the analysis for planning on dealing with future growth, such as capital improvement planning. This is something that needs to be done whether the growth is controlled by regulation or strictly by the real estate market. The analysis can be customized to look at different factors. David and Becca Boyden are working on this for the Planning

Board. Ned stated that two factors that should definitely be of interest to TCC would be the effect of projected growth on lake and river shorelines, and wildlife connectivity between the White Mountains and the Ossipee Mountains, the two main foci of TCC land protection projects. Other concerns stated by TCC members were agriculture, forestry, water resources and soils development potential. Chele and Margaret expressed an interest in working with the Planning Board on the build-out analysis.

### **Committee/Coordinator Reports**

**Selectmen** – Bob Abraham reported that Town Treasurer Mary Mills has resigned; Mariette Ross has been appointed by the Selectmen as her replacement. He reported that the Selectmen's road study committee is in the beginning of a two-year project inventorying all town roads and may have useful information for the build-out analysis.

**Planning Board** – Skip Nason reported that there will be a Planning Board meeting on April 19 at ten o'clock; it is a work session with FEMA to review the new DFIRM maps. David is working on identifying all areas of zone A on the DFIRM maps that have suspected inaccuracies because it is easier to get them corrected in the review stage than later. He will be at the Town Office Friday, April 13, 9:00 am to review the maps. Some TCC members intend to attend.

### **Conservation Lands Review Committee**

1. **Osgood Road Parcel (414/32)** – Bearcamp Trackers will have an outing on Saturday, April 14, to walk Osgood Road and the land.
2. **Bearcamp Valley Farm** – No further developments since last meeting.
3. **Beaver Brook Lot Conservation Easement** – The conservation easement has been signed by all parties and will be recorded Tuesday, April 10.

### **Public Education and Outreach –**

1. **Hikin' Herons** – Batch has an article submitted to GMCG newsletter. Gail Marrone's kids at her daycare center will be taking the challenge, noted Margaret.
2. **Family Day / Parade** – Agreed that participating in the parade is more effective outreach than setting up a booth. The heron has been repaired and is ready. It was suggested to get the Hikin' Heron patch earners involved. Other ideas are sought; there are only two more meetings before Family Day.

**Easement Monitoring** – Rich has reviewed the files. Everything looks in order except that a couple of the monitor copies are not in the file. Margaret and Chris Conrod probably have them. Ned urged all monitor copies to return to the file at this time of year. Rich will obtain more folder covers so that record and monitor copies will be color-coordinated.

### **Managed Lands and Trails**

1. **White Lake/Black Spruce Bogs** – Nelson reported to Ned that Eric at the State Park plans to get the signs done this spring.
2. **Big Pines Sign** – Chele reported that the State is still working on the repair; there was more rot than originally thought. The State can deliver it when it is ready.
3. **Map Boxes** – Batch says that they will all be up and filled by next week.
4. **Trail Monitor Reports** – They are coming in. Rich will be on Big Pines Trail this weekend to clear blow downs. Discussion of need to address muddy spot just before the bridge; Rich will check the BMP trails handbook and suggest a fix. Agreed that the work should be reviewed by Bob Hardy at the State first.

**Other Business** – None.

**Adjourn** – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Margaret seconded, motion carried 9:10 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*