

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – October 8, 2012

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned called meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners present were Ned Beecher (Chair), Nelson O'Bryan, Rich Gerard, Chele Miller, Bob Seston, William Batchelder, and Margaret Rieser.

Also present: Bob Abraham, Selectman; Skip Nason, Planning Board; and Sam Martin.

Approval of Minutes for 09/10/2012 – Nelson moved to accept the minutes of the 09/10/12 meeting; Batch seconded. Discussion: General agreement that Bob Hardy and Dan DeHart gave an excellent presentation on the forest management work in Hemenway State Forest. Agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to them and to Wendy Scribner, including an expression of willingness to work with them in encouraging public involvement during the planning stages of the next timber harvest. Nelson will write the letter. Motion to accept minutes carried.

Administrative

Treasurer's Report; 2013 Annual Budget – Margaret presented a proposed 2013 budget for submission to the Selectmen. The budget calls for level funding (\$6210, same as last two years) but with amounts shifted in four lines, to more closely fit previous expenses. Professional fees was increased by \$300; trail maintenance, office supplies and signs & boxes were decreased a total of \$300. Nelson moved to accept the proposed budget, Rich seconded; motion carried. A bill for a public notice for hearing in a local newspaper (\$22) was received. The Commission authorized payment by consensus.

Announcements – NHACC Annual Meeting will be on November 3. Chele and Nelson are interested in attending. Any others interested should contact Nelson. Two notices received from NH-DES regarding the Chocorua Valley Lumber state wetlands application: (1) restoration plan approval and (2) permit for wetlands impact.

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters

Waiver for septic system, Union Hall Road, So. Tamworth – This waiver request for reducing the setback to Bearcamp River in order to replace a failed septic system was approved by the Planning Board. TCC members made individual comments indicating no objections, but there was no formal group recommendation by the Commission.

Wetlands violation complaint, Chocorua -- received letter dated Sept 7, making a formal complaint about activities occurring at 1534 Washington Hill Road above Chocorua River. Construction is alleged to have occurred within 25' and possibly in a wetlands jurisdictional area. Ned will contact the landowner tomorrow and ask for a site visit. Ned will let Commissioners know if/when a site visit is arranged.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Selectmen – Bob A. reported the Selectmen accepted the CIP committee report; they did a terrific job. The Town is getting prepared for the upcoming election; plan to get new flag pole at Town House. The Selectmen are looking into alternative health plans for town employees.

Planning Board – Skip reported that two cell tower requests have been received; they are for updating existing facilities. The Planning Board is trying to resolve issues at Chocorua Meadows; the road hasn't been paved and possibly other obligations haven't been met.

Conservation Lands Review Committee – The Committee will likely meet within the next week or two for discussion about moving forward with the next phase of conserving the

Bearcamp Valley Farm.

Public Education and Outreach – Batch has written a piece published in GMCG newsletter.

Easement Monitoring – Rich reported that Kathy Bunker will still monitor the Jackman Pond trail and Lindsey easements. Hayfield Trust easement is looking for a monitor; Margaret is interested. Ned, Rich, and Chris will get together soon to discuss the Alt easements. Ned and Batch will get together to do a site visit on the Rhodes easement.

The administrative assistant has just about wrapped up the submission work for updating the GRANIT state-wide conservation land inventory. The next project will be developing baseline documents for the Beaver Brook, Western Field, and Eastern Field easements.

Managed Lands and Trails –

Fall trail work day will be Saturday, Oct. 13th. Meeting place will be the north end of Bartlett Bridge. A lot of work on the Bearcamp River Trail has already been accomplished thanks to David Gianpietro. Sue Stowbridge gave a positive report and thanks for the work on Tamworth Exchange. The Bearcamp River Trail will probably need some signs, too. Rerouting of Loop Trail at Hemenway State Forest is another project that needs to be done. Nelson may schedule another work day later in the fall.

Big Pines Sign – Chele will check on the status with Bob Hardy.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Chele moved, Margaret seconded, motion carried 8:07 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.