

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – November 12, 2012

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

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

Also present: Skip Nason, Planning Board; David Little, Planning Board and CLRC; John Mersfelder, CLRC; Kent and Carolyn Hemingway, wetlands SUP applicants.

Approval of Minutes for 10/08/2012 – Batch moved to accept; Margaret seconded; motion carried.

Administrative

Treasurer's Report; 2013 Annual Budget – Margaret reported that the 2013 proposed budget has been sent to Selectmen, she has not yet heard back. \$2164 remaining in the 2012 budget. Received receipt for Hikin' Heron badges, \$200 paid by Chele Miller, requesting reimbursement. Received bill for membership dues in NHACC, \$235. Received bill from R. Sagar, legal fees of \$192.50 for review of conservation easement. All disbursements will come out of operating budget.

NHACC Annual Meeting – Attended by Chele and Nelson. Chele found it useful. She reported attending a workshop on conservation easements; the presenter warned that an email has the power of signature, so you should be careful how you phrase your message when negotiating/discussing easements via email. She also attended a workshop on human-beaver conflicts; the presenter recommended using permanent controls (beaver-deceiver) as a proactive measure, rather than dealing with beavers after they are already established. Nelson found the workshop on the NH Method of wetland assessment to be useful.

Nelson reported that the thank-you letter to Bob Hardy and Dan DeHart has been sent, as agreed upon at the October meeting.

Announcements – GMCG will be holding a meeting on water quality on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters

Watkins Wetlands SUP Application – Batch visited the site with Skip Nason and David Little. Applicant is building a new home, they have an easement for lake access; they need to cross a stream 5' wide. Batch reported that there doesn't seem to be any problems with building a bridge. Skip Nason reported: The stream has a leafy bottom; it's not a bridge, it's a boardwalk. The span goes upland to upland. Batch: Conditions are better there than if they crossed the drainage on their land. David Little: PB would appreciate something in writing; there is a footing in the wetland, 125 sq ft of impact. Margaret moved to recommend approval of SUP. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Hemingway Wetland Application – Kent Hemingway described what he would like to do: There is a small brook with an existing foot bridge; he would like a more substantial bridge to access land beyond the brook. The proposed bridge will have a 16' span, brook is less than 5' wide. David Little: This application is not on the PB agenda; they have not received the application yet. Agreed that Kent will square things up with the PB and the PB will consult with TCC after they accept the application as complete.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Planning Board – Skip reported that Theresa Kennett of the MWV Housing Coalition spoke at the last Planning Board meeting.

Conservation Lands Review Committee

Floyd Conservation Easement – Bob Floyd is interested in selling conservation easements on his two lots on the south side of Route 25. Chele reported that there are a number of questions that need to be addressed; the discussions are in an early stage. CLRC will continue to work with Bob to see if there is a proposal worth bringing to the Commission.

Reich Easement – TCC has received a letter from Tom Howe of SPNHF asking if TCC is interested in helping out with covering costs of the easement they are acquiring from the Reich brothers on tax map 414-17. SPNHF will hold the easement; the property will stay in private hands. TCC originally discussed covering survey costs but no commitments were made. Chele: We don't know what the terms of the easement will be. Nelson: Yes, we should know that first. Bob: The easement would have to allow public access. Nelson: The next move should be to ask SPNHF for an outline of easement provisions. John M.: Could you discuss the value of contributing to an easement you will not hold and might be asked to monitor? If the society is going to obtain the easement anyway, what's the value? Chele: Was thinking it would only make sense if it was a make or break for the deal. Nelson: If TCC spends any money it should be a small amount. If they can do it themselves, all the better. David L.: In favor of seeing property protected but costs are 200% of value of the easement. Survey should not cost as much as stated. The Gilman Forest line and the Thompson line have already been surveyed. TCC needs to consider how much they are setting aside for their easements (stewardship). Rich: Will the Town have executory interest? Nelson: We do not know. Chele: Is this a request for a donation or is there some partnership involved? Agreed that the next step is to have CLRC look into this; the committee will meet soon. Contact Tom Howe first with questions raised here.

Easement Monitoring – Nelson has finished his monitoring assignments. Margaret is in progress. Rich and the Admin. Asst. will discuss assignments on the Alt easements. The Admin. Asst. has completed the GRANIT submissions for Town-held conservation land; he is working on the Baseline Documentation Reports for the new Floyd and Hertel easements.

Managed Lands and Trails – Nelson announced that the trail work on Betty Steele Loop Trail will be scheduled for next year. He has not checked all the trails since Hurricane/Post-tropical Storm/Frankenstorm Sandy blew through; he would appreciate reports from others who have walked the trails. Bob will check out Waterfowl Haven.

Other Business

Nelson announced that Ned visited the landowner of the property on Washington Hill Road that was reported as having a wetlands violation. Ned found all the work being done was within the footprint of the original building and there was no violation. He sent a letter to the Selectmen advising them of his findings.

Chele reported on attending a meeting held by SPNHF concerning their Lakes Region Strategic Conservation Plan.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Margaret seconded, motion carried 8:12 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.