

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – November 13, 2017

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, John Watkins, Stephanie Doyle and William Batchelder. Commissioners absent: Ned Beecher. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell and Eric Dube. Nelson appointed Lucy to fill the empty seat.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Dick Fortin, Tin Mountain Conservation Center (TMCC); and Kit Morgan, Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCC).

Approval of Minutes for 10/09/2017 – Moved by Batch to accept the minutes with Rich's correction that the Ash Borer has been found in New Durham. John seconded, motion carried.

Announcements

New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) is sponsoring a webinar on collaborating with other agencies or organizations, December 13 at noon.

Received DES copy of Complete Forestry Notification for Tax Map/Lot 410/44.

Trout Habitat Improvement Project – Dick Fortin, of TMCC, appeared by invitation to report on the stream habitat improvement projects that he has been heading up for the past few years. Two projects have been in Tamworth. They have been using methods based on previous work done in Green Mountain National Forest. Well anchored large logs are used to create pools and eddies in the streams. Electroshocking is used to monitor change in fish populations over time. The best positioning of logs for trout habitat is perpendicular to the flow but they have been using a more random placement to create a more natural effect. They have treated a total of 16 miles of stream so far and are currently in the middle of a twenty mile project in the Beebe River watershed. Results so far show increased fish biomass; more inundation of the floodplains, which results in slowing the flow rate; and reduced sediment and nutrient loss. Dick invited all TCC members to observe work in progress and he will let the commission know when TMCC is electroshocking in Tamworth.

Treasurer's Report/Finance –

John reported that 43% of the 2017 operating budget remains available for expenditure.

Received bill for NHACC annual dues, \$296. Chele moved to authorize payment, Stephanie seconded, motion carried.

2018 Annual Budget – The Finance Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed TCC budget. They recommend that the Sponsorship line be taken out of the operating budget and covered by the Conservation Fund. The Budget and the recommendations now go to the Selectmen for review.

Planning Board – Eric reported that Eversource needs to divest of its holdings in electrical generation plants but keep its transmission lines. The substation on Maple Road has both generation and transmission functions. They want to subdivide the property so they can sell the generation facility. However, that would create two nonconforming lots. The Planning Board is still reviewing and discussing.

Selectmen – Steve Gray reported that the Selectmen have been busy reviewing proposed budgets but representatives of state agencies will be attending the Thursday (Nov. 16) meeting to discuss Irene's Way.

Land Conservation – The Community School board of directors approves of putting a conservation easement on the three acres or so between Bunker Hill Road and Jackman Pond. The school is working on this but the land is under mortgage and the bank must approve before proceeding. Nelson wrote a letter describing the project for the school to include in their application to the bank.

Public Education and Outreach –

Sponsorship/Scholarships – The Barry Camp programs must be reserved in January. Rich will try to get the information needed for planning by the next meeting.

Letterboxing – Stephanie has yet to buy the stamp(s) needed for the letterboxing project. She will try to do this so it will be billed on this year's budget.

Easement Monitoring – It's getting down to the wire. Those who haven't completed their monitoring are reminded to get it done.

Wetlands – Kit Morgan reported that his GMCG committee has been working on revising/updating the information material for groundwater protection. He thanked TCC for updating the list of people and businesses who would find the information useful.

Managed Lands and Trails

Page Hill – Nelson sent a certified mail letter to the owners and they responded by approving TCC's plan to do view clearing. The work was done on Saturday, November 11. Much thanks to Brian Cutter, who showed up early in the morning had it basically done before the other volunteers got there.

Trail Clearing – The recent storms wreaked havoc on the Big Pines Trails. Nelson will schedule a work day. Please report any problems on other trails, particularly Black, Spruce, Waterfowl haven, and Remick.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Rich seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.