

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – March 14, 2011

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Members Present: Charlie Townsend, Ned Beecher, Chele Miller, Nelson O'Bryan, Margaret Rieser, Bill Batchelder.

Also Present: John Roberts, Selectboard; Skip Nason, Planning board; Marletta Maduski, Energy Commission; John Mersfelder, Zoning Board; Bob Seston and Rich Gerard, TCC Candidates.

Approval of Minutes

TCC Monthly Meeting 02/08/2011 – Batch moved, Nelson seconded; motion carried.

Public Informational Meeting 03/01/2011 – Chele moved, Nelson seconded; motion carried.

Membership – Interviews with TCC candidates

Bob Seston and Rich Gerard have expressed interest; TCC has space for one member and also alternates.

Rich Gerard: lived in town over 20 years, licensed forester, some land surveying, some exposure to wetlands permitting; uses trails and interested in doing trails work.

Bob Seston: Retiree from banking work; moved here year and half ago; lives in Chocorua; active in TCNA, Church, Capital Improvement Plan; does trail work, has helped TCC in past. interested in easement work.

Discussion of candidates: Nelson: great we have two good candidates, usually out shaking bushes; alternate should be assigned specific job, they'll feel part of the group and TCC can exploit them. Charlie stated he could and would prefer to become alternate and both candidates could become full members.

Nelson moved to recommend to the Selectman that the following appointments be made: Charlie to become alternate and Ned to be reappointed; Bob and Rich be appointed as full commissioners, all terms to be three years. Batch seconded. Motion carried.

Ned says TCC needs to choose a Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer; Ned is willing to remain Chair for one more year and then step down but be available as vice-chair for continuity. All committee chairs should decide if they want to stay on or get involved in a new committee; it will be all sorted out at next month's meeting.

Administrative

Treasurer's Report – Charlie: no recent activity for this current year; budget passed at town meeting. Ned: there is an outstanding invoice from T. Swanick for drafting of Hertel lot P&S. Chele moved to authorize payment, Charlie seconded; motion carried.

Election/Town Meeting results/implications – General Discussion: the petitioned warrant article to abolish the Commission provided an opportunity for TCC to tell public what it does. Ned: Vote was 82% in favor of TCC. We learned of some public concerns about CMI project, wetlands ordinance; prime wetlands, needs more education; easements, locking land away in conservation, also something worthy of further public discussion; Charlie: TCC should possibly gather data on economic impact of conservation land for public presentation. John Roberts: TCC went above and beyond in providing information to the public; it was a good effort to get information out and listen to concerns. The town supports TCC and TCC deserves the support.

Announcements – Saving Special Places, annual workshop/symposium for land conservation to be held April 9, Sutton, NH. Interested parties should let Ned know. Chele is going on her own

nickel so she doesn't have to give a report.

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters

Ned: Prime Wetlands adopted 1980; Grace property is having problems with permit for forestry work, as discussed at last meeting; Bryan Berling provided names of wetlands scientists to contact concerning costs involved in delineations of prime wetlands; Ned contacted these people, still waiting for reply. Delineation could not start until warmer season, logging wouldn't happen until next winter. Wetlands Committee will pursue this matter further.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Selectmen – John: nothing new to report tonight.

Planning Board – Skip: Tamworth now has two reps to GMCG: Peggy Johnson and Skip (at large). Groundwater Protection Ordinance; Planning Board thinks it may be worth revisiting after review and better public outreach.

Ordinance Review Committee – Ned: on hold – will probably meet in April.

Easement Monitoring – progress report – State wants Perkins boundary line re-marked; it will probably need a licensed surveyor. Also questionable line on Hayfield lot. Admin Assistant will contact Paul King to get an idea of the work involved. This might have to go out to bid.

Managed Lands and Trails – Batch: they're still there.

Energy Commission – Marletta Maduskie: Date for energy fair is May 7; does TCC want to be involved? Ned: we want to be involved. Marletta: To be held at Brett School. Need help getting it physically coordinated. Ned: perhaps get Carl McNall to help, Ned will contact Carl. Marletta: need help contacting potential business partners for time or materials.

Ad hoc Committee on Land Conservation (start at 8:30; Margaret left at this point)

Gilman Forest – baseline documentation done, signed, and complete; needs to get on monitoring schedule. Trail MOU between TCC and SPNHF still pending.

Beaver Brook Lot – conservation easement pending; Community School is grantor, Town is grantee; planned to be done in next month or two.

Western Field (Tax Map 420, Lot 13) – proposal – Ned, Chele, Nelson have been working on this, along with local private citizens. Ned: long negotiation process, now the purchase price is at fair market value; a group of private citizens are working to raise the agreed-on price; the ad-hoc committee on land conservation recommends to TCC that the commission purchase from the soon-to-be-landowner (a non-profit) a conservation easement for \$15,000. The appraiser says the easement would be worth 50 – 60 thousand dollars; property meets two targets: riverfront, wildlife conservation. Marletta asked: anyone affiliated with the non-profit? Ans: No. What will be the loss in taxes to town? Ans: Currently paying \$2200, would probably be about \$200 at current use rate – which is probably what it was not long ago, when the land was probably in current use (Ned will check on this). What is the urgency? Ans: Landowner/developer is ready to sell to have a house built. Charlie moved to authorize expenditure of \$15,000, to come from Conservation Fund, Batch seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business – none

Adjourn – Batch moved, Chele seconded, adjourned 9:11pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant