

# **Tamworth Conservation Commission**

Draft Minutes – April 11, 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: Ned Beecher, Nelson O'Bryan, Margaret Rieser, Bill Batchelder, Rich Gerard, Bob Seston. Ned appointed alternate Charlie Townsend to fill in for Chele Miller until she arrived (which was at the beginning of the Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee discussion).

Also Present: Skip Nason and David Little, Planning Board

## **Approval of Minutes**

TCC Monthly Meeting 03/14/2011 – Batch moved, Nelson seconded; motion carried.

## **Administrative**

**Membership** – The four new and reappointed members affirmed that they were sworn in by the Town Clerk. Ned reported that TCC now has seven full commissioners and three alternates.

**Financial Report** – Statement received from NHACC for 2011 dues. There's a question of whether the bill has already been paid. Ned will check into it. GMCG water quality monitoring donation is due. Nelson moved, Margaret seconded, to pay \$900 to GMCG. Motion carried. To date, TCC has disbursed \$1855, mainly clerical and professional fees. Over budget on professional fees.

**Selection of 2011 TCC Officers.** The following slate was nominated: Chair – Ned; Vice Chair – open; Treasurer – Margaret; Secretary – Nelson. Nelson moved, Margaret seconded, motion carried.

**Committees** – Ned suggested doing away with the ad hoc Committee on Land Preservation, responsibilities to go to Conservation Lands Review Committee. Charlie moved, Bob seconded, motion carried. Brian and Ned will remain on ordinance review committee. Batch will remain as chair of public outreach, Batch and Brian will remain as co-chairs of wetlands and subsurface committee; Rich volunteered for easement monitoring coordinator. Nelson will stay on as chair of managed lands and trails committee, Rich will assist with that committee's work. Bob is interested in the Conservation Lands Review Committee; he and Ned will discuss responsibilities soon.

**Announcements** – Two educational/workshop opportunities were passed on to the commission for individual consideration.

**Member Handbook updates** – Handbook updates and copies for new commissioners will be available as soon as the copier is functional and changes are made to the membership and committee pages. Chris handed out copies of chapter one to new Commissioners; also TCC web site is good resource of information about TCC responsibilities and programs.

**Planning Board Report** – (Skip) The Board recently elected officers: Dom chair, Nicole vice chair, David secretary. They discussed why ground water protection ordinance failed. They have decided to conduct a community profile, two day affair, identifying issues in town, pick two or three you think you can fix, basically an education process. They consider 2012 too soon to re-recommend zoning. Discussion ensued between Skip, David, and Commissioners concerning the possibility of (1) public outreach effort concerning groundwater protection and (2) a build-out analysis as a means of addressing public concern over the amount of conservation land in Tamworth.

## **Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters**

**Prime Wetlands** – committee had meeting, considered options for dealing with current NH prime wetlands law. Barry Keith says a big difference is that the original prime wetlands delineation was

based on very poorly drained soils; now the rules allow very poorly + up to 50% poorly + hundred foot buffer. Perhaps time to re-evaluate prime wetlands. Keith suggested other things to look at: update prime wetlands using original rules of state, no public hearing required; OR, do a complete redesignation under new rules. SB 19 (passed Senate, headed for House) would change rules back to only poorly drained. Decided to put further deliberation on hold until fate of bill is known.

**Land Conservation** – Western Field / Hertel update; need to schedule public hearing – Purchase and Sale Agreement has been signed recently between LRCT and Hertel. Agreed to hold public hearing at next regular meeting of the TCC (May). Ned will post.

### **Committee/Coordinator Reports**

**Public Education and Outreach** – Project idea: organizing files & info for library history room repository – what do we have? what would be good to send? shall we display a map of conservation lands? Admin Assistant will suggest possible archived material that is no longer necessary for TCC operations.

A “friend” suggested that TCC have float in family day parade; and patches. Thoughts and ideas were offered, agreed to think some more and bring it up next meeting.

**Easement Monitoring** – Ned and Rich will get together to discuss general duties of Easement Coordinator (later set for 7:00 am Friday, April 15). Specific needs at present include:

- Perkins boundary re-establishment.
- Evans/Hayfield survey of east boundary
- Rhodes bounds clarified.

### **Managed Lands and Trails**

- Trail boxes and guides need to be set out.
- Johnson Waterfowl Haven – trail blazing; blazing other trails
- 3.7-acre town property on Cleveland Hill Road: is it being managed; should there be TCC involvement; first step, talk with selectmen.
- Nelson is looking for trail adopters to do clearing if they wish but to at least report trail conditions. Commissioners should let Nelson know what trail they want to adopt.
- White Lake: can place signs on trails on State property, state will make them.
- Easy walker trail needs work.
- Trail work days will be planned.
- Recent public comments indicate that trails are well received and appreciated/popular with townspeople. Ideas: Moose plate grants for improvements and public outreach, patches to residents for hiking all the trails.

**Bird Walks** – Ned will begin the bird walks on April 20<sup>th</sup>. They will run for five weeks (every Wednesday).

**Energy Commission** – Energy Fair at Brett School on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn** – Batch moved, Margaret seconded, adjourned 9:23 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant*