

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – August 8, 2011

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned called meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Commissioners present were Ned Beecher, William Batchelder, Rich Gerard, Chele Miller; Margaret Rieser, Bob Seston.

Also present: Skip Nason (Planning Board)

Approval of Minutes – 06/13/2011 Ned noted that, under Easement Monitoring, “Fred Hanson” should be “Frank Hanson.” Batch moved to accept minutes as corrected, Margaret seconded, motion carried.

Administrative

Treasurer's Report – Margaret applied the expense incurred by bill of Paul King (Community School property line survey and marking) to the Stewardship line in the Conservation Fund. Trail maintenance expenses of \$32.33 for paint and sign hardware reimbursed to Nelson. Bottom line: So far, spent \$3483.54 out of \$6210 budgeted for this year.

Announcements – Forestry notifications for lots 424/2 and 413/23. State of NH-DES Shoreland application submitted for lot 202/59 (Tamworth Inn property). Copy of NCSS site inspection report for CMI is on file with TCC. Returned application for minimum – expedited NH wetlands dredge and fill (lot 411/35.6) returned for need of natural heritage inventory report; will come to wetlands committee soon.

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters

Chocorua Valley Lumber – Greg Howard was present, representing CVL – Update regarding wetlands impact mitigation and wetlands restoration on the site. The ratio for mitigation is 15 acres protected to 1 acre impacted. The plan is to establish a conservation easement along Sanger brook - approx 30 acres total. Sticking point becomes who will hold easement. CVL is working with LRCT. Proposed easement is contiguous with LRCT Sanger Brook lot. The new easement would include a minimum 100' on both sides of brook. Concern of CVL is that the easement wouldn't be used as active, publicized use area. LRCT is agreeable. The wetlands restoration plan is to restore 83,000 sq. ft. of 173,800 sq. ft impacted. Alteration of terrain permit will be submitted by Sean Sweeny, White Mountain Survey soon. Greg will be submitting wetlands plan to the state and Tamworth special use permit application after the easement is finalized. Perimeter of the easement will be monumented. Greg is hoping to get things in order for approval at LRCT's September Board meeting.

Prime Wetlands – Barry Keith present as adviser to TCC. Ned: change of state prime wetland regs (100' buffer) impaired the ability of town resident to perform logging operation. Barry explained the prime wetland mapping evolution over the past 30 years. Tamworth wetland evaluation (early 80s) done prior to development of Army Corps methodology. He used UMass wetland classification of Northeast and “Adams” method for functions and values. High scores became candidates for prime wetlands. Town employed Barry to do further work on the half dozen highest values. The parameters were very poorly drained and high values. Mapping based on tax maps and aerial photos with spot field verification. At that time poorly drained contiguous to very poorly could be designated as buffers. Around ten years ago definition included poorly drained up to 50%. At that point there were no buffers. About 5 years ago the 100' upland buffer became jurisdictional. The final word now on where the wetlands are is a site delineation by wetland scientist. There is a waiver process in place if someone wants to log in

the uplands. It involves a standard forestry notification application with request for waiver. Are prime wetlands regs necessary with existing wetland regulations? Bill in legislature now being considered to distinguish between “contributing vs. non-contributing” wetlands. Wait to see what happens with SB 19 before making any decision, Barry recommended and TCC agreed. Science has changed, you may want to update due to changes in delineation process. Agreed by Commission: Follow up on waiver option with the particular landowner and sit tight on any other action regarding the local prime wetlands designation.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Selectmen – Ned announced that the Selectmen's motion in District Court for a stay on construction at the CMI property was heard last month. Jack Waldron (town resident in audience) stated that the court refused a temporary cease and desist order.

Planning Board – Skip: at next meeting PB working on boundary line adjustment in Chocorua; they are also updating forms.

Public Education and Outreach – Hikin’ Heron program – Chele: still tracking down patches; it will be ten more days until delivery.

Easement Monitoring

Community School boundary – Ned sent letter to landowner; hasn't heard back.

Update re breach on Alt property/SPNHF easement – Forest Society would have considered a significant mitigation easement in exchange for leaving the infringing Tamworth Wireless tower in place, but the landowner did not offer such mitigation. So, SPNHF just recently sent a letter sent to Alts stating that they must remove tower; 30 days to submit plans for removal.

Managed Lands and Trails

Cleveland Hill Road town property – Recommendation to Selectmen on Ned's to do list. Rich talked to Wendy Scribner, county forester, to see if it would qualify as a tree farm demonstration lot. He will follow up with her; she seemed enthused about the possibility.

Conservation Lands Review Committee – Projects update – Chris will work on Beaver Brook easement. Western Field: David White is working on abutting lot in Sandwich with Sandwich Conservation Commission. Still plan to work with Bob Floyd on remaining farm land, possibly in conjunction with larger scale effort.

Household Hazardous Waste Day – the closest of the two Saturdays was last Saturday, four volunteers from Tamworth helped out at Ossipee and Moultonboro, seemed to have a decent turnout. Report will be coming later from LRPC.

Other Business – none.

Adjourn – Margaret moved; Batch seconded, motion carried 8:54 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.