

DRAFT MINUTES
Tamworth Conservation Commission
Ad-hoc Gilman Forest Fundraising Committee
March 5, 2010

Draft minutes to be reviewed, amended, and approved at a subsequent meeting.

Present: Ned Beecher, David Little, John Mersfelder, Chele Miller, Nelson O'Bryan

Fundraising completed

With the grant from the Tamworth Foundation for \$10,271, the fundraising portion of this project is essentially completed. Nelson reports the total, without the grant, is \$129,824. Well done all! The Society still has an ad in its magazine, so they may get a few more donations. Additional donations are fine, as it is likely there will be additional expenses, such as Town Attorney fees for review of the conservation easement.

Next steps

- Review updated budgets with the Society/Tom Howe.
- There will be a meeting with neighbors, especially horse people and Scott Aspinall (trail groomer) re horses and limited snowmobile use. Nelson and Ned plan to attend this.
- Negotiate conservation easement terms; John, David, Nelson, and Ned agreed to assist with this.
- Publicity at some point (perhaps include mention of Sanborn Brook CE, and a review of all the land protection over the past two years?)
- Thank you party at some point (plan some expenses for this)

Committee expenses

Members brought lists of expenses contributed to the project. Ned will create a final tally of expenses to date, with projections of additional expenses coming up, to share with Tom Howe.

Upcoming meeting with NE Forest Center

Chele has made the arrangements. The date is being changed to sometime in April. This Committee, Rick van de Poll and/or new SCC chair, and John & Michelle Cleveland will attend. Others?

Possible new conservation project

Ned said he was told that a landowner with some farm land is interested in selling a conservation easement. The Committee agreed that the parcels involved are high priority, both for river shore land protection and for the new Whites to Ossipees Wildlife connectivity initiative. Ned has begun discussions with NRCS and others and will talk with the landowner to see what is possible. The Committee agreed to recommend to the full Conservation Commission that this project be pursued further at this time, at least to see whether or not it is possible.

Other

It was noted that the "Saving Special Places" conference is coming up soon; want to attend?

Adjournment

Nelson moved, David seconded, and all approved.