

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – January 13, 2020
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Chele Miller, Dexter Harding and Charlie Townsend. Commissioners absent: John Watkins and Stephanie Doyle. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell, Eric Dube and Kit Morgan. Nelson assigned Eric and Kit to fill the vacant seats.

Also Present: Jill Emerson and Sarah Goldsmith, representing Green Mountain Conservation Group.

Approval of Minutes for 12/09/2019 – Batch moved to accept minutes as written. Charlie seconded, motion carried, Eric and Dexter abstained.

Administrative/Announcements –

Received copy of NH-DES Forestry Notification for Tax Map 414. Lots 90&91.

Financial

Charlie reported that at the end of 2018 there was \$1321.26 remaining in the annual TCC Budget. \$7500 from 2019 Land Use Change Tax funds has been deposited in the Conservation Fund.

Green Mountain Conservation Group Water Quality Report – Jill Emerson and Sarah Goldsmith presented the results of the GMCG water quality monitoring for 2019. This was the 17th year of the program. Three locations (Bearcamp, Swift & Chocorua Rivers) are monitored in Tamworth. All sites are tested for at least five parameters. All parameters were within state and federal quality standards. Some trends were noted. Phosphorous has increased in the Bearcamp River. Phosphorous has decreased but chlorine and sodium have increased on Chocorua River. Possible causes of these trends are a change in agricultural practices and the use of road salt. GMCG also provides the Get Wet program at the Brett School, which introduces students to water quality testing. A Volunteer Biological Assessment Program will be offered in the fall of 2020; it will introduce students to macroinvertebrates and their association with water quality.

Planning Board – Eric raised the issue of a second try to get a Groundwater Protection Ordinance passed in town. Nelson has spoken with Sheldon Perry about this. The Planning Board is currently tied up with reviewing the cell phone tower ordinance and still has master plan work to do. Eric will act as liaison and chief nagger between TCC and the Planning Board.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection – Still waiting on Padgett and family members for any proposal and still waiting for complete land survey for the Payne easement.

TCC Membership – John Watkins has declined a new term. Charlie Townsend will accept a new term. Kit Morgan is ready to step up to full commissioner status. Lucy Gatchell will accept a new term as Alternate. Eric moved to recommend to the Selectmen that they appoint Charlie and Kit each to a three year term as Commissioners and Lucy to a three year term as Alternate. Dexter seconded, Motion carried.

Easement Monitoring – Reports for 2019 are basically done but still being collected.

Wetlands

Swift River Work on Riverbank, Great Hill Road – January 15 is the deadline for the landowner to submit a remediation plan to NH-DES. Nelson has not heard anything new.

Swift River Bridge Repair on Chinook Trail (Route 113, North end of Old Mail Road. – NH-DOT is planning some repair work to the bridge, apparently concrete deck work. They asked for any environmental concerns TCC may be aware of in or around the proposed work area, and for recommendations for any wetland mitigation areas if needed. Agreed to pass on the wetland mitigation suggestions to Lynne Flaccus at Chocorua Lake Conservancy, although it is not likely that mitigation will be needed. Eric reported that the area directly downstream is productive mushroom habitat. Mushrooms are slow to recover from any disturbance. The Administrative Assistant suggested that there may be a New Hampshire Natural Heritage site listed by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau a little downstream of the bridge. Nelson will reply to NH-DOT's request.

Managed Lands and Trails

Trail Brochures – Batch reported that TCC is running short of brochures. Nelson asked all commissioners to review the brochure and any editing suggestions will be discussed at the February meeting. The numbered interpretive trails were discussed.

Jackman Pond South Trail – The trail sign at the Route 113 end is broken. Chris Conrod will make a new one.

Fire Tower Shutters – Discussed the fire tower shutters in Richard Doucette's barn. Agreed that since the fire tower is open to the public year-round there is no need for them.

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

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.