

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – November 8, 2021, Tamworth Town Office

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, Jeremy Phillips, Chele Miller and Charlie Townsend. Commissioners absent: Kit Morgan and Stephanie Doyle. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell and Eric Dube. Alternates absent: Ned Beecher. Nelson assigned Eric and Lucy to fill empty seats.

Also present: Dylan Alden; Melanie Streeter, Selectboard; Randall Dearborn, Planning Board.

Approval of Minutes for 10/11/2021 – Eric moved to accept the minutes as written. Charlie seconded, motion carried. Eric and Jeremy abstained.

Administrative and Announcements

None

Financial

Nelson announced that the Selectboard will be considering the 2022 TCC annual budget on Wednesday. He will attend the meeting.

Planning Board

Randall announced that the Sharp development on Whittier Road East has been approved. There are two boundary line adjustments under review. An application for a project on Bryant Heights Road is in the works.

Selectboard

Melanie announced that the Selectboard is busy with the 2022 budget and the annual evaluation of the Department Heads. She warned that recently there have been multiple catalytic converter thefts in Tamworth.

Membership

Dylan Alden is willing to fill the position of commissioner that was opened when Anneliese Smith resigned. Eric moved to recommend to the Selectboard that Dylan be appointed to fill the remainder of Anneliese's term. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Nelson announced that William Batchelder is resigning as Alternate, Stephanie Doyle wants to change to Alternate at the end of her term, and Eric may not be around next year. Nelson advised the commissioners to think of people who they could recommend for membership.

Randall inquired if planning board members could be on a conservation commission. The Administrative Assistant said he believed there was a limit to how many could be on the commission. *[A later check of RSA 36-A:3 showed this: "In a town which has a planning board, one member of the commission may also be on the planning board."]*

Easement Monitoring

Nelson reviewed the list of easement monitors. There was one new easement that needed a monitor and one existing easement that needed a new monitor. Both of these vacancies have been filled.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Perkins Easement – Nelson recounted recent activities on the Perkins Easement. It covers properties on three lots of record. This year the Community School sold two of the lots to Zero Mile Farm. An attorney for the grantor had reviewed the easement and advised that the school could sell individual lots of record within the easement. The State of NH (NH-OSI, Conservation Land Stewardship Program) holds an executory interest on the easement and is of the opinion that individual lots cannot be sold separately. Nelson has retained the town attorney to resolve the issue.

Managed Lands and Trails

Betty Steele Loop at Big Pines Natural Area – Bob Hardy (forester for New Hampshire State Forests) reviewed the proposed trail relocation and made a revision on the east end. He will write up a memorandum of understanding and upon receipt the Commission can relocate the trail. The work will probably have to wait until next year.

Bob Hardy also asked the Commission to remove two dead pine trees next to the foot bridge. Nelson got an estimate for removing the trees from Michael Parker: \$650. Jeremy recommended that six or more feet of the trunk be left for wildlife habitat purposes. Chele moved to authorize payment of \$650 for tree removal at the bridge in the Big Pines Natural Area. Jeremy seconded, motion carried.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Eric moved, Chele seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.