

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – May 9, 2022, 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, Charlie Townsend, Jeremy Phillips. Commissioners absent: Kit Morgan, Dylan Alden and Eileen Shelly. Alternates present: Ned Beecher, Lucy Gatchell and Chele Miller. Alternates absent: Stephanie Doyle. Nelson appointed Ned, Lucy and Chele to fill empty seats.

Also present: Randall Dearborn, Planning Board (via Zoom); Kelly Goodson, Selectboard.

Approval of Minutes for 04/11/2022 – Charlie moved to accept the minutes as written. Jeremy seconded, motion carried.

Administrative and Announcements

Received Green Mountain Conservation Group newsletter.

Financial – Charlie reported that the Selectmen's Office has dispursed the \$40 for Kit's Saving Special Places registration fee and presumably has or will do the same for Eileen. That would leave \$6708 remaining in the annual budget. Nelson stated that he had submitted the Administrative Assistant's time sheet for January through April and that should show up in the next statement. Ned renewed the TCC internet domain name and declined to accept reimbursement. Thank you, Ned!

Planning Board – Randall reported that the King subdivision has been approved. The Hertel subdivision on Bryant Heights Road is still in review. Eversource has applied for and received approval for cutting and trimming trees along the town roads. At the next meeting the Board will be working on the subdivision ordinance and the capital improvement plan. Work is ongoing in the Groundwater Protection Committee. Engineers reviewing the gas station application in Effingham have identified some issues that need to be addressed.

Selectboard – Kelly reported that Keats Myer has been hired as the Town Administrator. The finance and assessing clerk positions are expected to be filled soon. Becky Mason and Melanie Streeter should be commended for keeping the Selectmen's Office running smoothly during the transition. Kelly intends to research contact information for indogenous residents of Tamworth.

Easement Monitoring – Chele reminded all that it is not too early to start planning easement inspections.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Perkins Easement – Ned reported in Kit's absence: Negotiations between lawyers representing parties involved in rectifying the subdivision of the Perkins easement is ongoing. A proposal is to split the original easement into two separate easements. There are two versions of the new easements being considered. TCC has no preference between the two as long as the intent and restrictions are not compromised. Charlie moved to allow the town attorney to accept either version. Jeremy seconded, motion carried, Nelson recused himself from discussion of the motion and abstained from voting. Charlie moved to accept the proposal of removing any reserved rights of the Grantor regarding the playing field, regrading, and Jackman Pond access. Jeremy seconded, motion carried, Nelson recused himself from discussion of the motion and abstained from voting.

Conservation Easement Procedures – At the request of Kelly, Nelson wrote up an explanation of how a conservation easement is acquired by the town. It has been reviewed by the commission and delivered to Kelly. The Administrative Assistant will post the document on the Conservation Lands page of the website.

Public Education and Outreach

Family Day, July 4 – Jeremy reported that the Groundwater Protection Subcommittee supports having a table at the Family Day festivities. It could have basic information, aquifer maps,

home test kits. Agreed to see what display items Green Mountain Conservation Group could provide.

Chronolog – Nelson reported that there is a considerable expense in participating in the Chronolog program but TCC could set up its own Chronolog station for very little expense. Discussed having one on the fire tower and/or getting the Brett School involved.

Household Hazardous Waste Day – Will be held on August 6, 8:30 to Noon. Sue Stowbridge is the Tamworth coordinator and she is looking for volunteers to be greeters.

SPARCnet Spring Salamander Census – The next census will be performed by the Brett School students on May 10. The final census on May 21 is open to all.

Managed Lands and Trails

Betty Steele Loop Relocation – The work day for the relocation was April 23. The flagging for the relocation was missing. It will be re-flagged and rescheduled. Discussed the old trail that went along the river bank; agreed to install a warning sign that the trail is no longer maintained and has poor footing.

Fire Tower Windows – The windows have been retrieved and inspected. There are eleven multi-pane sashes. Two of the panes are broken. They are available to whoever can put them to use. Jeremy will see if there is any fire tower history related group that would have any interest in them.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Jeremy moved, Charlie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.