

**MINUTES**  
**Conservation Lands Review Committee**  
**of the Tamworth Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting**  
**Friday, July 20, 2012**

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

**Present:** John Mersfelder, Ned Beecher, Kate Thompson, David Little, Chele Miller, David White (supporting)

**Meeting started at 9:40 am.**

**1. Fundraising for Eastern Field conservation project**

- John had created a pledge form, which he showed and was approved by the Committee. It will be used first on Saturday at the Farmer's Market.
- The group reviewed targeted fundraising success to date, each member reporting on whom they had talked with and what pledges and donations they had acquired. The total of donations in hand and pledges is \$33,600, including the \$10,000 from the Conservation Fund.
- Ned and others have additional assigned contacts to make, to seek further donations.
- It was agreed to have a booth at the Farmer's Market on Saturday. Ned had arranged this the directors of the Market; thanks go to Peg Loughran and Bob Streeter for arranging a space for the Commission. Ned will set up; John and Katy will help during the last 2 hours of the Market.

**2. Logistics to get to the closing purchasing the conservation easement for Eastern Field**

- Theresa Swanick is revising the Purchase and Sale agreement based on the Committee's comments last week. It will be ready when needed. She is also conducting the title search. Ned suggested planning to sign the P & S with a down-payment of \$5000 (non-refundable) on Friday, the 27<sup>th</sup>. To make that possible, he made an executive decision and asked Anne Abear to have the check made up so the Selectmen can sign it at their next meeting on Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup>. Ned noted that the taxes have not been paid on the property for this year, and he had talked with the landowner about this and they agreed that the taxes (\$409) are to be taken out of the \$5000 down-payment check, which Anne Abear is doing. Ned stressed that having the check ready does not mean that it has to be used, and if the Committee decides, or if other circumstances arise between now and then, the check can go unused.
- The concern was raised that the Commission clearly stated that they want no Conservation Funds be used for a non-refundable deposit or be used in any other way that puts them in jeopardy. Because of that, we have obtained an anonymous private donation of \$5000 to the Conservation Fund from someone who has committed to it being non-refundable; therefore, it is only private money – no public money – that is in jeopardy. However, the Committee's level of confidence that the project will go through is very high, so this should not be an issue.
- Ned has arranged to meet with the Selectmen at their next meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. He will be away then, so David Little, who will be at the meeting anyway, said he would

cover for this. Ned will provide a written summary of the project, and David will answer any questions that arise. One thing that will be stressed is to have the Selectmen formally vote to accept and place in the Conservation Fund up to \$40,000 in donations for the Eastern Field project.

- The next step will be the signing of the P & S, hopefully on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The closing date the Committee recommends is August 31<sup>st</sup>, at which \$35,000 would be paid and the final Conservation Easement would be signed by Ned Beecher and Bob Floyd, with the Selectmen signing the Easement either at the same time or before or after.
- Theresa Swanick will help with drafting the easement, and review of it will be a major topic of the next meeting (next Friday). It will require time for Commission review, Town attorney review, and approval by Selectmen.

**Next meeting:** Friday, July 27, 2012, 9:30 am, Town Offices

**Adjourned:** 10:35 am