

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Minutes – June 12, 2023, Tamworth Town Office
Accepted at July 10, 2023 TCC meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Dylan Alden, Eileen Shelly, Jeremy Phillips and Kit Morgan. Commissioners absent: Charlie Townsend. Alternates present: Ned Beecher. Alternates absent: Lucy Gatchell and Stephanie Doyle. Nelson appointed Ned to fill an empty seat. Also present: Nick Grant, Planning Board; Teresa Fournier, Tamworth resident; Scott Aspinall, Tamworth resident; and Rick Van de Poll, Tin Mountain Conservation Center.

Approval of Minutes for 05/08/2023 – Kit moved to accept the minutes as written. Eileen seconded, motion carried. Ned abstained. Ned later stated that the summer camp sponsorships ended up going to the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center and the Bearcamp Center, not to Tin Mountain Conservation Center. (see below under Financial.)

Administrative and Announcements

Received copy of NH-DES approval for removing more than 50% basal area along the road frontage at Tax Map 414, Lot 36.

Received donation of \$300 from White Mountain Endurance Races, to be deposited in the Conservation Fund.

Stream Habitat Improvement Project – Rick Van de Poll presented a proposed plan to place logs in Mill Brook to improve trout habitat and retain sediment. There have been numerous previous projects in Tamworth that have proven to be effective. The proposed work would be done on Tax Map 412, Lots 23, 25 and 32. Ned moved that TCC support the application to the state. Jeremy seconded, motion carried. Nelson will sign a statement of support.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Aspinall Lot – Nelson and Scott Aspinall presented a new proposal for protecting Scott's property (Tax Map 414, Lot 96). Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) is interested in purchasing the property. There are still details to work out but presently the idea is that TCC would cover survey, appraisal and deed costs, as well as help in fundraising for the purchase price. In return, the Town of Tamworth would hold a conservation easement on the property. This lot, in combination with Tax Map 414, Lot 95, is a key location for completing the Whites to Ossipees wildlife corridor, as these contiguous lots have road frontage with low development potential and face protected corridor land across the road. Nelson asked for and received a consensus to proceed working with Scott and LRCT to finalize an agreement. Nelson will contact LRCT.

Mowing on the Remick Farm, Aspinall Easement – The Remick Farm has been mowing and or grazing the hayfields and pastures on the farm but they have ceased mowing the low meadow in the northwest corner. This area is good early succession habitat subject to proliferation of invasive species. The easement gives TCC the right to mow this area. Scott Aspinall recommends that it be mowed regularly. Ned moved to contract someone to mow the meadow and to authorize payment up to \$400 if he can't convince the Remick Farm to do it. Jeremy seconded, motion carried.

Financial – Ned reported that One summer camp sponsorship went to Squam Lakes Natural Science Center and two sponsorships went to the Bearcamp Center.

Planning Board – Nick Grant reported that the Planning Board has completed a draft of the revisions to the subdivision ordinance. The board has been in discussion with the Selectboard concerning the groundwater protection ordinance. The Selectboard agrees they need to appoint a compliance officer. The Zoning Board of Adjustment needs more members.

Easement Monitoring – Nelson reported that the NH Conservation Land Stewardship Program will be visiting Tamworth on June 14 to inspect the three conservation easements held by Tamworth that were acquired under the Land Conservation Investment Program. Jeremy reported that LRCT has submitted an annual conservation easement report on the Tanna Farm, on which TCC holds an executory interest. No problems found.

Public Education and Outreach

History Center Summer Exhibit – The TCC display is up and the exhibit is open. Go see it.

Camp Sponsorships – Thanks to Ned, all three sponsorships have been spoken for by Tamworth students.

Wetlands and Shorelands – Nelson reported that he received an inquiry regarding clearing debris from streams. It is allowed and you can use heavy equipment as long as the wheels of the equipment are not in the jurisdictional area (beyond the bank of the stream and not in a wetland).

Managed Lands and Trails

Kennett Triangle – Nelson and Crosby Kennett marked the boundary between the Kennett Triangle and Crosby's land so the logging operation will know where to stop.

Trail Work – Dylan reported that some trails have been done. If you see an issue with any of the trails, report it to Dylan.

TCC Membership – Teresa Fournier, Tamworth Resident on Old Mail Road, is interested in the work of TCC and she is willing to be appointed a commissioner. She is particularly interested in the trails on TCC managed land. Ned moved to recommend to the Selectboard that Teresa be appointed as a commissioner. Kit seconded, motion carried. With luck, she'll be sworn in before the July 10 meeting.

Other Business – none

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Nelson moved, Ned seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.