

**Ad-hoc Committee on Land Conservation
Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2010**

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

Present: Ned Beecher, Chele Miller, Nelson O'Bryan, John Mersfelder, David Little, Katy Thompson, with special guest Don Berry (Lakes Region Conservation Trust)

Meeting called to order at 9:12 am.

This meeting continued brainstorming and planning regarding a new potential land conservation project in which the Town would be involved. The Selectmen were apprised by Ned of this possible project in a non-public session a few weeks ago, and they expressed their support of the Commission proceeding with the project.

This meeting included:

- Discussion of possible finance options, including two federal funding programs under the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the state LCIP program, and local fundraising, perhaps with some leveraging or loans from the Conservation Fund.
- Discussion of utilizing several programs together, which might be complicated; would rather keep it simpler. Decided that we could pursue a conservation easement on one of the parcels of land in question first, then deal with the others later; we do not need to do the full package at once.
- The landowner has provided an "opinion of value" regarding the possible market value of the lots, which the Committee agreed showed very high pricing, probably due to the realtor making the estimates not being aware of wetlands and other detracting features of the lots. The town valuations were reviewed for comparison.
- Discussion of next steps to be taken, including the need for a survey, for discussion with the landowner about concurrence of other family members regarding his or her conservation planning, and which Committee members would talk with whom about possible local financial support.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45, as moved by John, seconded by David, and approved by all.