

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Agenda

June 14, 2010

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

Call To Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:01 by Ned Beecher.
- Members Present: Ned Beecher, Kathy Bunker, Chele Miller, Margaret Rieser, Skip Nason (Planning Board Representative).

Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2010

- Kathy Bunker moved, and Chele Miller seconded, to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting as presented. The motion passed with no objections.

Administrative

Member Handbook Updates

An updated member list and other revisions were made available.

Thank you letters

Thank you letters were prepared for Chris Conrod, Kristel Reid Farris, Richard Posner, Jamie Riel and Caleb Leahy.

Fire Tower as High Speed Internet Hub

- Dennis Quinn discussed a proposal by Tamworth Wireless to install a high speed internet hub on the Great Hill Fire Tower to provide internet service for areas not currently covered.
- Funding has been granted by the Tamworth Foundation, contingent upon the development of a business plan.
- Broad band will go from the FairPoint Building to the Fire Tower and then to pole antennas on Pease and Bunker Hills.
- The State of NH owns the land the fire tower sits on, however the Town of Tamworth owns the tower. Tamworth Fire and Rescue Department has permission to install a transmitter on the tower and has the authority to control all other installations. Tamworth Wireless is working in partnership with Tamworth Fire and Rescue to install both the wireless hub and the Fire and Rescue transmitter.
- The State of NH will not need to be involved with the internet hub since it will be solar powered and the land will not be disturbed. It will, however, be involved in the transmitter installation since power will need to be brought in.
- The Commission noted that the project was unlikely to diminish people's use or enjoyment of the tower.
- Chele Miller moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to support the Tamworth Wireless efforts to use Great Hill Tower as a hub for wireless service. The motion passed with no objection.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Managed Lands and Trails

Fire Tower

- The painting of the fire tower steps has been completed by Kristel Reid Farris, Keith Farris and Lindsey Peterson. Nelson O'Brien obtained the paint and brushes.
- The Hemenway footbridge has been checked and looks fine.
- Betty's Path was maintained by Chele Miller, Skip Nason, Nelson O'Brien and several other volunteers. Blazing has been completed.
- Next, the road leading in to the Fire Tower from the north needs to have brush removed. Permission has been granted by the state to brush it out and clear to the ditches.
- A tree was removed, clearing the view to the village.
- Margaret Rieser will post a map at the kiosk.

Other Trails

- Margaret Rieser will coordinate with Nelson O'Bryan to replace arrows and numbers at the Remick Trail.
- Chris Conrod provided a map of White Lake with a blank header so it can be labeled as appropriate. Ned Beecher and Bill Batchelder will continue to work on the map and signage.
- A work day for Great Hill and Black Spruce Bogs has been scheduled for Saturday, June 26th, beginning at 8 AM. Ned Beecher will post a notice on the Tamworth Exchange.
- Kathy Bunker will check the condition of Jackman Pond.

Overview

Ned Beecher expressed his great appreciation for how much has been done in the last year.

Planning Board Representative

- Skip Nason reported that an application for a seventy foot cell tower off Durrell Road was approved.
- The Planning Board is reviewing the Excavation Ordinance to address concerns over the distance requirement and to include regular inspections.

Family Day / Earth Day

- Ned Beecher will loan a tent. Bill Batchelder will bring a table and brochures.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

- Volunteers are needed for the Saturday, August 7, 2010 event in Ossipee and Moultonborough. The work does not involve handling hazardous waste and ends by noon.

Ordinance Review

- This committee continues to meet, updating forms and applications.

Outreach, Publications, Publicity, Education

- Bill Batchelder submitted an article to the Green Mountain Conservation Group's newsletter.
- Map boxes have been stocked, including the new box on Great Hill.

Wetlands Matters

Trout Habitat Improvement Project

- An application has been submitted to the Planning Board which will review it for completeness and then schedule a public hearing.
- The state has accepted the Minimum Impact Expedited Application as complete.

Mill Brook Beaver Activity

- Water is no longer flowing through the new channel so it is possible to walk to the bridge. There is some flow around the dam. Monitoring will continue to see if the previous problem resolves itself.

Chocorua Valley Lumber

- No new information has come forth. Ned Beecher will check with the state on the status of this.

Shoreland Protection Act Variance Application

- No new information has come forth on the status of the Union Hall Road project. Ned Beecher will check on this.

Water Quality

Groundwater Ordinance Development

- Kathy Bunker brought the Groundwater Protection Ordinance draft to the Planning Board.
- The ordinance closely follows a model but is being checked to see if it is written appropriately since Tamworth does not have any zoning.
- The history of the project was reviewed. The NH Department of Environmental Services gave a grant to the Lakes Region Planning Commission, which contracted with the Green Mountain Conservation Group, to work with six towns over the Ossipee Aquifer, at no cost to the towns. The intent was to provide consistency between the towns' groundwater protection ordinances.

Tamworth's draft ordinance was created at the request of the Planning Board and has been posted on the Tamworth Exchange for public review.

- The ordinance focuses on local enforcement of existing New Hampshire state regulations.
- The ordinance must be approved at Town Meeting to become effective.
- Members of the public were invited to ask questions and comment. Dave Gaudet asked if a business such as a junkyard that is non-conforming would be prohibited from expanding for a conforming use.
- It was suggested that the Commission craft the ordinance in such a way that it would be possible to allow expansion that does not add a threat to the aquifer.
- Ned Beecher thanked Dave Gaudet for bringing the message forward and stated that the Commission would like to hear from those who might be impacted by the ordinance.
- The Commission wants to make sure that its intent is written down for future reference.

Agricultural Matters

It was noted that gardens are doing well and the Farmers' Market is operating successfully.

Land Acquisition & Easements

Gilman Forest Project

- Ned Beecher met with a representative of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF), Jill Jenkins (stable owner), and Scott Aspinall of the Mill Brook Association. They walked the trails of the Gilman Forest to address the question of whether the Forest Society will allow horses on its trails. The concern is about possible erosion and muddying of spots.
- Existing horse trails and a potential expansion which would create a loop will be mapped.
- The trails will be open to horse use with the understanding that the town will be responsible for maintenance of the trail.
- The SPNHF may close the trail if maintenance is not done or damage is excessive.
- SPNHF, after consultation with the town, may relocate the trail.
- It was suggested that language be added to the agreement that allows the town to discontinue trail maintenance and to close the trails, either permanently or temporarily to correct problems before they become worse.
- The SPNHF is resolving some issues with neighboring landowners regarding right-of-ways. A draft conservation easement will be ready for consideration in a month or two.

Other

- Ned Beecher is talking with NRCS about funding possibilities for a previously discussed project.

Other Business

Diane Shaw Lot

Chele Miller reported that water is flowing past a beaver dam. The lot is difficult to walk through but does provide a good buffer and wildlife habitat. It would be suitable for kayaking and wading.

Rieser Easement

David Little noted an article in the Laconia Citizen citing Margaret Rieser for the conservation easement she placed on her Sanborn Brook property.

Adjournment

Kathy Bunker moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM. The motion passed with no objection.