

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Minutes

October 11, 2010

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

Call To Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Ned Beecher.
- Members present were Ned Beecher, Chele Miller, Kathy Bunker, Nelson O'Bryan and Bill Batchelder. Charlie Townsend and Margaret Rieser arrived prior to 7:30.
- Others present included Skip Nason (Planning Board Representative), David Little (Planning Board), and John Roberts (Board of Selectmen).
- Ned reviewed the agenda and announced a change in order of items to accommodate visitors waiting for specific items.

Vernal Pool Presentation (7:05) – Jamie Riel presented a report on a vernal pool study prepared last spring by Kennett High School student Caleb Lucy. A copy (hard copy and powerpoint) are now on file with TCC. Recommendations of the report included TCC continuing an inventory of vernal pools using volunteers and reporting results to the state.

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters

- **Thompson / Mill St.** – waiver under the Tamworth Wetlands Ordinance (TWO) for reduced setback for septic system – (7:39) – Peter Wobber and Chip Bollinger representing applicant. A failed existing septic system on lot bordered by Cold Brook on the west and Bearcamp River on the north. There is not enough room on lot to meet required Wetlands Ordinance setbacks. The applicant was asked if turning the leech field by 90 degrees would allow increasing the distance from the Bearcamp River (but still less than town setback). Mr. Bollinger pointed out that the alternate orientation would place the leech field over ledge near the surface, and straddling a swale where groundwater movement likely occurs during the spring. Chele moved to recommend waiver (TWO: J.1) for septic system setbacks (TWO: F.1.(a)). Batch seconded. Discussion: it's a great improvement over what's there now; no alternative location of leech field can meet all setbacks. Motion Carried.
- **Celko / AT&T / Durrell Rd.** – Special Use Permit application - (7: 59) – Audra Klum (wetlands scientist) and Lisa ____ (attorney) representing applicant. Peter Demarco (AT&T) not present but at site visit earlier (5:30 pm noticed site walk). Four crossings of intermittent streams on existing woods road to access main portion of lot; three have existing culverts. All crossings occur in narrow portion of lot where brooks/wetlands extend from boundary to boundary. The purpose of the crossings are for access to site of planned communications tower. Impacted area as shown on application includes the areas that were previously impacted by existing road. Underground utilities will be placed within the 20-foot-wide area of the existing road - no additional impact. Discussion: Under TWO section E.1.(a), key word is “minimize.” Crossing #1 could be minimized more by realigning road. It was noted that the reason for the application is clear and includes a clear use for the upland areas at the back of the lot, i.e. for construction of a cell tower. It is clear that, for the three existing crossings, the new culverts and grading will improve the water flow. Kathy moved to recommend granting Special Use Permit under TWO: E.1.(a) provided that the applicant realigns road to provide a crossing that is closer to perpendicular to the first wetland area. Ned asked applicant to provide the number of square feet of wetland that will be *newly* impacted, since the applicant had included the prior impacts from the existing woods road in the calculated area on the application. The newly impacted square footage is likely to be minimal. Chele seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes (8:28) Chele moved, and Margaret seconded, to accept the minutes of September 9, 2010. Motion carried.

Administrative (8:29)

Treasurer's Report - Charlie said that the most up-to-date figures are in proposed budget. Nelson asked about paint expenses. Invoice from Other Store not received yet. Charlie will look into it.

Annual Budget

- Charlie: bottom line of his proposed budget dropped by \$150 from the current budget.
- Ned suggested changing website expenses from \$200.00 to \$160.00.
- Nelson moved, Kathy seconded, to submit Charlie's proposed annual 2011 TCC budget as amended by Ned. Bottom line: \$6210.00. Motion carried.

Next Meeting – Ned announced that he will not be available for the regularly scheduled meeting of November 8, 2010. Agreed to consider to not meet in November unless time-sensitive business comes before the Commission before then. Decision will be made prior to the scheduled date.

Conservation Fund – funding via LUCT; consideration of increased cap - Statewide there is a wide range in caps. Currently Tamworth's is \$5000; we get the entire amount most years. Fund has been slowly growing. Discussion: What's the reason for raising cap? We are not participating in capital improvements because we have the conservation fund. This is the only town funding for conservation work. Wrong economy to be asking for more. The general feeling of the Commission is to not ask for change in LUCT cap. The question was raised: What would be the cost to town if Gilman lot were subdivided (tax revenues vs. services provided)? Would this be a method of justifying the existence and expenditure of conservation funds? TCC administrative assistant will research this if time allows.

Announcements – The following announcements/reminders of upcoming events were made:

- NHACC Annual Meeting Nov. 6 – who will attend for TCC? No takers so far.
- TVEC Blower Door Test, Town Offices – Nov. 13th
- Salt reduction in Winter Road Maintenance
- GIS on Pennies a Day
- Ossipee Watershed School Presentation and Open House

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters (continued)

- **McConarty** – review of stabilization of wetlands next to driveway – (9:15) Wetlands restoration. Batch and Brian checked the work, remediation work has come along nicely. Agreed to send letter to DES confirming Irene Garvey's report of remediation.
- **Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club** – buffer waiver for work on 2 trail bridges (9:18) – Two seasonal brook crossings for a snowmobile trail. Both crossings to be made by bridge with abutments outside of jurisdictional wetlands. A waiver is needed to place abutments in the 25' buffer under TWO: F.2. Discussion: Both crossings are on existing woods roads. One has a washed-out culvert. Earth disturbance will be outside jurisdictional wetlands and limited to directly below abutments. Nelson moved, Kathy seconded, to recommend granting waiver for construction activity within 25' of a wetland. Motion carried.

Committee/Coordinator Reports (9:27)

Planning Board Representative – Skip: completing revisions on new excavation regulations. David: Public hearing Wednesday (October 13) on ground water protection ordinance.

Easement Monitoring – time for annual monitoring / Alt monitor meeting – Charlie, John, Chris should get together with Kathy to straighten out Alt assignments. Website for downloading monitoring reports: www.nh.gov/oep/programs/CLSP.

Managed Lands and Trails

- Jackman Pond Trail bridge east end of north trail – needs repair: 4 ea. PT 2x10s needed, \$50 worth. Kathy moved, Batch second, to authorize expenditure of \$50 for bridge repairs. Motion carried. Nelson will make the repairs.
- Mowing – John Roberts reported that Waterfowl Haven in progress. Bearcamp Field still needs to be done.
- Page Hill trail work Oct. 30 – all are invited, Dave Bowles will have tractor available.
- Transfer Station report – Bearcamp Trackers did a site walk. Chele submitted a map and report of findings. The report will be passed along to the Selectmen.

Energy Commission – Charlie will try to make next meeting.

Ad-hoc Committee on Land Conservation

- Gilman Forest update -- Sept 30th closing. Baseline documentation being done by Forest Society to be approved by TCC and Grantor; some closing expenses still to be worked out.
- Other current efforts in wildlife connectivity area – Ad hoc committee has been doing some consultation for a private conservation initiative.
- Reich / Hackett Hill – The owners would like to place conservation restrictions prior to sale. They are talking with SPNHF. It's a 100 acre lot. Commission may be asked to help.

Groundwater Protection Ordinance – First public hearing: Wednesday, 10/13, 7 pm

Other Business – There was no other business brought before the Commission.

Adjournment

Nelson moved, and Chele seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 pm. Motion carried.

Submitted by Chris Conrod