

TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

April 13, 2009

[Approved on May 11, 2009.]

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:01 by Chair Ned Beecher.

Members Present

- Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Kathy Bunker, Dave Haskell, David Little (Planning Board Representative), John Roberts (Select Board Representative), Charlie Townsend.
- Bryan Berlind, (Alternate), was seated as a voting member.

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes of the regular meeting of March 9, 2009 were corrected so that the Scott Finman lot is identified as "Lots 414/90 & 91".
- Dave Haskell moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2009 meeting as corrected. The motion passed with no objection.

Administrative

Members Sworn In

- Bill Batchelder, Bryan Berlind and Kathy Bunker have been appointed by the Select Board as members and were sworn in.

Nominations

- Scott Eldridge, a resident of Tamworth who enjoys hiking, fishing and other outdoor pursuits, was nominated as an alternate member.
- Nelson O'Bryan, a resident of Tamworth, chemist, member of the Conservation Lands Review Committee, and trail volunteer was nominated as an alternate member.
- Kristel Reid Faris, a resident of Tamworth, geography major specializing in GIS, and who works in the mapping and environmental field, was nominated as a member.
- Charlie Townsend moved that we accept the nominations of Scott Eldridge as an alternate member, Nelson O'Bryan as an alternate member, and Kristel Reid Faris as a full member, all for three-year terms. Dave Haskell seconded the motion, which passed with no objections.
- Ned Beecher will send a letter to the Select Board recommending these appointments.
- When the Select Board has acted on the nominations, Ned Beecher will notify the new members.

Elections of Officers

- Bryan Berlind moved, and Bill Batchelder seconded, to elect Ned Beecher as Chair, Charlie Townsend as Treasurer, and Kathy Bunker Secretary. The motion passed with no objection.
- Filling the position of Vice-Chair was put on hold. It was noted that the Commission can appoint an acting Chair in the absence of the Chair.

By-Law Update

- An ad hoc committee was formed to review the By-Laws and bring any suggested changes to the June meeting. Charlie Townsend, Kathy Bunker and Ned Beecher serve on this committee.

Budget Report

- Ned Beecher reported that Land Use Change Tax funds for last year were deposited in January. Charlie Townsend will confirm that this shows in the records.

Member Handbooks

- Revised Member Handbooks were distributed. Of note is the inclusion of Betty Steele's reminiscences.

- An expanded version, in electronic format on a memory stick, is available in the top drawer of first file cabinet at the entrance to the town offices meeting room.

Closed Landfill Well Monitoring

- Wells at the closed landfill must be monitored regularly. The frequency depends on the results of the last test and currently is on a semi-annual basis.
- The town now pays for the service of sampling and shipping.
- Previously, the Select Board requested volunteers to be trained by Bergeron to perform this task.
- Nelson O'Bryan volunteered. When arrangements have been made for training, he may invite other members to attend.
- Ned Beecher will notify the Select Board.
- John Roberts will see that the Select Board notifies Bergeron.

Master Plan implementation

- David Little distributed CD's of the master plan.
- The Planning Board has requested that the Conservation Commission consider a motion endorsing the 2008 Master Plan, and agreeing to follow its implementation steps.
- Members will review the list of tasks supplied by the Planning Board. The matter will be considered at the May Commission meeting.
- Items will be prioritized. How they fit with current activities will be assessed. A plan will be made to address them over the next couple of years.

Managed Lands & Trails

Over the Hill Hikers

- Mark Tuckerman, of the Over the Hill Hikers, discussed maintenance of the Bearcamp River Trail, which runs from Beede Falls in Sandwich to the South Tamworth Bridge.
- The Over the Hill Hikers maintain the trail up to the Community School.
- The Community School maintains the section on their property.
- The Commission agreed to accept responsibility for maintaining the Tamworth section of the trail (with the Community School).
- Mark Tuckerman requested that he be kept informed of progress.
- Dave Haskell will assess what information is available and/or needed regarding easements along the Tamworth section of the Bearcamp River Trail.

Wetlands Matters

Lot 414/90-91, Scott Finman

- Scott Finman was invited to speak but stated that he had no further information.
- As requested at the March 13, 2009 Commission meeting, Stephan Nix has sent information verifying that the property is of record as of 1991.
- The Planning Board decided that a buffer waiver is required for construction of the proposed driveway.
- The Planning Board sent a letter to the Select Board, which is the enforcing agent.
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- The Select Board sent a letter to Scott Finman indicating that there may be a violation.
- It was stated that the process is for the applicant to submit a letter to the Planning Board requesting a waiver. The Planning Board can consult with the Commission on that decision. Scott Finman stated that the process was clear to him and that he had nothing to say on the matter.
- When asked if construction has been done in the buffer area, Scott Finman stated that he had nothing to say.
- Scott Finman was asked if he had anything further to share with the Commission at that time but he declined.
- The Commission discussed a potential site walk, but decided to do nothing further at this time, and watch for action by the Select Board.

Well Head/Aquifer Protection & Water Quality Monitoring

Green Mountain Conservation Group – Tara Shroeder gave a presentation on protection of the Ossipee Watershed.

- Tamworth was thanked for its support for water quality monitoring.
- Partnerships with other organizations, agencies and departments were listed.
- Maps showed the 14 towns covering the Ossipee Watershed.
- The Ossipee Watershed was described.
 - Largest stratified drift aquifer.
 - Recharges quickly due to sandy soil.
 - Good capacity for drinking water but vulnerable to pollution.
- Challenges to sustainable water resource management were listed.
 - Landscape change
 - Climate change
 - Aging and inadequate water infrastructure
 - Information needs (more data on surface and groundwater)
- Testing sites and results were reviewed.
 - Water quality is generally high.
- Potential and emerging contamination sources were identified.
 - Road salt application is an emerging problem.
 - Vehicle recycling
 - A program about assessing groundwater vulnerability in the Ossipee Watershed will be held on May 7th, 2009. TCC members encouraged to attend.
- Encouraging the use of “best management practices” was recommended.

Committee / Coordinator Reports & Appointments of Chairs

Meetings

- Committees were encouraged to meet independently, identify goals for the year, and report to the full Commission with recommendations.
- Members were reminded that decisions and substantive discussions must occur in noticed public meetings.

Planning Board Representative

- David Little stated that the Planning Board excavation subcommittee will coordinate with Margaret Rieser.

Conservation Lands Review Committee

- This committee will be meeting when land trust standards are done. It will select its own Chair. Margaret, Nelson, and David are on the CLRC for the Commission.

Easement Monitoring

- Kathy Bunker will contact Claes Thelemark for training on easement monitoring and then act as coordinator.
- All members take some properties to monitor annually.

Family Day/Earth Day

- These activities will now be handled by the Outreach Committee.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

- Ned Beecher ensure that information about Household Hazardous Waste Day gets to Chris Clyne, who is now the coordinator.

Managed Lands and Trails Committee

- A trail clean up day is planned for May 7, 2009. Dave Haskell will post a notice on the Tamworth Exchange.
- National Trails Day will be on June 6, 2009.
- Bryan Berling moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, to authorize spending up to \$200 to purchase signs, posts and hardware for the Bearcamp area and Black Spruce Bogs area. The motion passed with no objection.

Ordinance Review

- Ned Beecher and Bryan continue on this committee. The list of ordinances is being narrowed down. The committee will bring a slate to the next town meeting for annulment – these will be ordinances

that are outdated, replaced, etc. Those ordinances passed by the Select Board will be brought to the Select Board for annulment.

Outreach, Publications, Publicity, Education

- Bill Batchelder will install a map box at Big Pines.
- It is time to restock map boxes.
- It was suggested that a display, associated with a speaker such as Tara Schroeder, be prepared for a public place such as the library.

Wetlands and Subsurface Committee

- Bryan remains as chair.
- This committee will monitor the McConarty stabilization and the Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club projects.

Land Acquisition & Easements

Remick Natural Area

- Charlie Townsend reported that the ground is still snow covered so a boundary walk has not been scheduled. He will talk to Ron Remick and then notify the Commission as to when the walk will be.

Other Business

Cleveland Hill Road Bridge

- One permit from DES is still awaited however work is expected to start by June 1, 2009. The road will be closed for at least two weeks.
- Bird walks start on April 22 and continue for five weeks. Tony Vazzano and Ned Beecher will take turns leading the walks.

Adjournment

Bryan Berlind moved, and Dave Haskell seconded, to adjourn at 9:21. The motion passed with no objection.

Action Plan

Scott Aspinall

- Scott Aspinall will be sworn in, (if this has not already been done).

Bill Batchelder

- Bill Batchelder will install a map box at Big Pines.
- Bryan Berlind and Bill Batchelder, of the Wetlands and Subsurface Committee, will monitor the McConarty stabilization and the Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club projects.

Ned Beecher

- Ned Beecher will send a letter to the Select Board recommending these appointments.
- When the Select Board has acted on the nominations, Ned Beecher will notify the new members.
- Charlie Townsend, Kathy Bunker and Ned Beecher will review the By-Laws and report at the June meeting.
- Ned Beecher will notify the Select Board that Nelson O'Bryan has volunteered to be trained for well monitoring at the closed landfill.
- Ned Beecher will talk to Willie Farnum about getting information about Household Hazardous Waste Day to Chris Clyne.

Bryan Berlind

- Bryan Berlind and Bill Batchelder, of the Wetlands and Subsurface Committee, will monitor the McConarty stabilization and the Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club projects.

Kathy Bunker

- Charlie Townsend, Kathy Bunker and Ned Beecher will review the By-Laws and report at the June meeting.
- Kathy Bunker will contact Claes Thelemark for training on easement monitoring and then act as coordinator.

Dave Haskell

- Dave Haskell will assess what information is available and/or needed regarding easements along the Tamworth section of the Bearcamp River Trail.
- A trail clean up day is planned for May 7, 2009. Dave Haskell will post a notice on the Tamworth Exchange.

Nelson O'Bryan

- Nelson O'Bryan volunteered to monitor the test wells at the closed landfill. When arrangements have been made for training, he may invite other members to attend.

John Roberts

- John Roberts will see that the Select Board notifies Bergeron that Nelson O'Bryan has volunteered to be trained for well monitoring at the closed landfill.

Charlie Townsend

- Charlie Townsend, Kathy Bunker and Ned Beecher will review the By-Laws and report at the June meeting.
- Charlie Townsend will confirm that the Land Use Change Tax funds for last year were deposited in January.
- Charlie Townsend will talk to Ron Remick and then notify the Commission as to when the boundary walk at the Remick Natural Area will be.

All Members

- All members will review the list of conservation related tasks proposed on the 2008 Master Plan for consideration at the May meeting.