

## **TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**June 8, 2009 7 PM**

[Approved on 7/13/09/]

### **Call to Order**

- **Meeting Called To Order** at 7:01 by Chair Ned Beecher.
- **Members Present:** Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Kathy Bunker, Scott Eldridge, David Little (Planning Board Representative), Kristel Reid Faris, Margaret Rieser, Charles Townsend

### **Approval of Minutes** of May 11, 2009.

- The spelling of "snowmobile" and Scott Finman's name were corrected. The number of the Finman lot was corrected to be Map/Lot 414/91.
- Kathy Bunker moved, and Bill Batchelder seconded, to accept the minutes of May 11, 2009 as corrected. The motion passed, 5-0.

[Scott Eldridge was designated as a voting member for the meeting.]

### **Administrative**

#### **Budget Report**

- Charlie Townsend confirmed that the Land Use Change Tax deposit had been made at the \$5,000 cap level.
- The balance as of April was \$68,581.

#### **Remick Museum Environmental Agriculture Day**

- Ned Beecher will notify the museum that the Commission will not have a formal display for this event on June 27.

#### **Family Day**

- It was suggested that this is a good opportunity to get input from participants about their priorities for conservation in Tamworth.
- Kathy Bunker, Ned Beecher and Margaret Rieser will meet to plan and prepare a display. The trails network may be highlighted toward meeting one of the Master Plan implementation priorities. Household Hazardous Waste Day information will be made available.
- Kathy Bunker will ask Green Mountain Conservation Group for any handouts that might be appropriate.
- David Little will provide maps.
- Bill Batchelder will provide a table and get the tent from Donna Veilleux.
- Ned Beecher and Margaret Rieser will cover some of the time at the event.

#### **Power of Parks**

- Members of the Commission were notified of the "Power of Parks" kick-off at White Lake State Park, scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Master Plan Implementation**

#### **Tracking Progress**

- Master Plan Implementation will be a regular agenda item at each monthly meeting. Progress toward the goals of establishing wildlife corridors and coordinating efforts to expand and publicize the network of trails will be noted each month.

### **Well Head/Aquifer Protection & Water Quality Monitoring**

- Kathy Bunker announced a meeting hosted by Green Mountain Conservation Group to be held on June 26<sup>th</sup> from 10-12.
- It was noted that the intent is to prevent problems from developing, rather than to correct problems after the fact which would be more costly to business, Tamworth and the state.

- The two options considered for preventing the degradation of water quality were education and regulation.
- The Commission discussed the idea of a drinking water protection ordinance, perhaps requiring the use of best management practices. There is interest in learning about the experiences of other towns, including any regrets or unintended consequences.
- Questions for Green Mountain Conservation Group include what are their suggestions for Tamworth, and what might Tamworth do that is not already being done by Green Mountain.
- Since the towns of Ossipee and Madison share the area most at risk for our public water supply, the possibility of coordinating efforts was discussed. However, it was noted that most town residents are not on the public water supply.
- Nelson O'Bryan and Ned Beecher will attend the meeting with Green Mountain Conservation Group and convey that the Commission is interested in a strong education campaign along with exploring the possibility of an ordinance.

## **Managed Lands and Trails**

### **National Trails Day**

- There was a good turnout on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers reported an a greater appreciation as they became more familiar with the trails and also that they enjoyed the sense of accomplishment.
- Work was done on the Black Spruce Bogs Trail. One more stretch of trail will be taken care of by Scott Eldridge.
- Ned Beecher will schedule another Saturday for trail work.

### **Assessment of Alt property for Parking for Mill Brook Trail**

- Ned Beecher met with Jim Alt, who is requesting approval for a gravel parking area on conservation easement property. The document stipulates that structures and roads can be created if associated with allowed agricultural and recreation uses. No wetlands would be involved.

### **Remick Natural Area Boundary**

- Ned Beecher will check the deed to see how the boundary was defined.
- The Commission did not see a need to expend funds on a boundary line agreement but will wait to hear what the cost might be and what the Remick Foundation is willing to take on.
- Charlie Townsend will draft a letter to the foundation which Ned Beecher will review and send.

### **Letter to Bearcamp Trail Property Owners**

- It was reported that Dave Haskell is drafting a letter to property owners along the Bearcamp Trail.

### **Perkins Trail Blazing**

- It was reported that Nelson O'Bryan has done some blazing of the Perkins Trail.

### **Mowing**

- The Bearcamp Field needs mowing.
- Ned Beecher will consult with Dave Haskell about whether the pines at Waterfowl Haven should be allowed to continue to grow or be cut before they get too large.

## **Wetlands Matters**

### **Bearcamp River Prime Wetland**

- The NH Department of Environmental Services is requiring the Remick Museum to apply for a full permit (rather than a notification) to thin trees at the property along the Bearcamp River due to the proximity to prime wetlands area.
- It was reported that Bryan Berling will meet with Bob Cotrell on the site to assess whether or not the area to be thinned lies within the 100 foot buffer zone.

### **Great Hill Reservation Trust**

- David Little reported that it was stated at a Planning Board meeting that all of the work on this project has been completed.
- Ned Beecher will ask Bryan Berling to write a letter indicating compliance with the conservation easement.

### **Shoreland Protection Act Notification**

- Since changes have been made in the Shoreland Protection Act, such as adding the Swift River as a protected area, an outreach and education effort will be made.
- David Little and Kristel Reid Faris will generate a list of land owners whose property falls under the Shoreland Protection Act.
- Charlie Townsend will assist Ned Beecher in drafting a letter explaining the regulation and providing contact information and references. Charlie Townsend will also assist with the mailing.

### **Land Acquisition & Easements**

#### **Monitoring**

- Kathy Bunker, Ned Beecher and Claes Thelemark will meet in June to prepare for this year's monitoring.
- A monitors' training will be offered in September, using one property as a model.
- Annual monitoring will be done in September and October.

#### **Land Trust Standards**

- The Conservation Lands Review Committee will present a set of Land Trust Standards that is compliant with national standards to the July Commission meeting for adoption.
- Having Land Trust Standards will add a level of trust for those who are considering donating conservation easements and qualifies the Commission for membership in the Land Trust Alliance.
- When adopted, the standards will become sections C1 and C3 of the Member's Handbook.

### **Committee / Coordinator Reports**

#### **Planning Board Representative**

- David Little reported that the Planning board discussed, but has not yet approved, the Great Hill Reservation Trust matter, extending the time limit for ninety days.

#### **Energy Committee**

- A public meeting is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM at the Cook Library to identify places where streetlights are needed and where they may not be necessary.

#### **Household Hazardous Waste Day**

- Chris Clyne and Ned Beecher attended a meeting to plan for Household Hazardous Waste Day(s) which will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Publicity will appear in the Tamworth Civic News and at the Transfer Station.
- Last year the turnout was the largest in 6 years
- Volunteers are needed.

#### **Landfill Monitoring**

- Nelson O'Bryan has been organizing this, setting up account with the methane monitoring equipment firm. Bill Batchelder reported that although the equipment malfunctioned, eight of the eighteen sites were successfully monitored. The process will be repeated again next quarter.

#### **Ordinance Review**

- Bryand Berlind and Ned Beecher met.

#### **Outreach, Publications, Publicity and Education**

- Kathy Bunker submitted a piece for the Green Mountain Conservation Group's newsletter.
- Maps are being picked up at Big Pines but not at Jackman Pond. A family hike around Jackman Pond is being considered for August.
- Bill Batchelder revised the Fire Tower Guide to reflect the correction suggested by Paul King.

#### **Conservation Land Review Committee**

- A meeting has been called for June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.

## **Other Business**

### **Agricultural Commission:**

- Margaret Rieser recommended an article on creating an agricultural commission in your town, which can be seen on the Cooperative Extension website. Ned Beecher also noted that the Natural Resources section of the Master Plan has interesting information on the agricultural resources in Tamworth.

## **Non-Public Session**

- Charles Townsend moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to go into non-public session for an update on a current negotiation on a pending conservation easement. The motion passed with no objection, David Little and Ned Beecher abstaining.
- Charles Townsend moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, to seal the minutes of the non-public session indefinitely. The motion passed with no objections.

## **Adjournment**

Scott Eldridge moved, and Kristel Reid Faris seconded, to adjourn at 9:10 PM. The motion passed with no objection.