

Draft

TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

July 13, 2009 7 PM

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Chair Ned Beecher.
- Members present were Bill Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Kathy Bunker, David Haskell, David Little (Planning Board Representative), Nelson O'Bryan, Margaret Rieser, John Roberts (Select Board Representative) and Charles Townsend.
- Nelson O'Bryan was designated as a voting member for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

- Bill Batchelder moved, and Margaret Rieser seconded, to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2009 meeting. The motion passed with no objection, Dave Haskell abstaining.
- Margaret Rieser moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded, to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2009 non-public session. The motion passed with no objection, Dave Haskell abstaining.
- Sealed minutes for previous meetings on the topic of the purchase by SPNHF of the Gilman Lot will be emailed to members for review. These minutes are to be unsealed. At the August meeting, they will be reviewed.

Administrative

Budget Report

- Charlie Townsend reported a reimbursement of \$19.98 to Bill Batchelder for a mailbox at Big Pines, as previously authorized.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

- Volunteer response has been good, however more volunteers are welcome.
- It was clarified that solidified oil based paint can be disposed of at the transfer station, however liquid oil based paint should be brought to hazardous waste day.

GPS

- David Little made a presentation to the Commission on how the use of GIS and GPS (Global Positioning System) might benefit the Commission.
- GIS is a framework for a user-driven database with multiple relationships between tables. Data can be layered; photos and GPS information can be imported.
- Resources include the NH GRANIT system which provides much data and the Community School which has GIS capability.
- An example was presented, showing water bodies in Tamworth with their 250 foot buffer zones. Properties within the buffer zone were identified from tax maps and then mailing labels for property owners were created.
- Another example was a map created to show all of the known public hiking trails in Tamworth.
- It was noted that GIS is also a good tool for public education as people are naturally drawn to locate their own properties and then go on to learn more from the associated data.
- For meetings, the Commission would like to have the ability to project GRANIT, GIS or Google Earth information onto a screen.

- Margaret Rieser will discuss with Jay Rancourt the possibility of making more maps available to the public at the Cook Library.
- Members expressed their gratitude to David Little for the work he has done with these powerful tools.

Outreach, Publications, Publicity

Family Day

- Bill Batchelder reported that attendance was low due to the weather.
- The Commission thanked Ned Beecher for the TCC banner he donated for public events.

Shoreland Protection Act

- Ned Beecher and Charlie Townsend will get a letter out to owners of property affected by the recent changes in the Shoreland Protection Act.

Well Head/Aquifer Protection & Water Quality Monitoring

- Nelson O'Bryan reported on the Green Mountain Conservation Group's Steering Committee meeting of June 26th, also attended by Ned Beecher, David Little and Willie Farnum.
- Water samples collected from 60 wells over the aquifer will be tested for inorganics. Data will be used as a baseline to identify changes in concentrations over time.
- It was noted that where aquifer protection ordinances work well there has been a lot of community involvement resulting in flexible ordinances customized for each town.
- Green Mountain Conservation Group has produced two brochures to increase public awareness of the importance of aquifer protection. The response from individuals has been better than that of businesses.
- TCC is requesting that it be selected as one of the towns for Green Mountain to work with this year.
- Kathy Bunker and Ned Beecher will attend ordinance crafting workshops, which are scheduled for July 30 and August 13.

Wetlands Matters

Remick Buffer Zone

- The Wetlands and Subsurface committee met with Bob Cotrell of the Remick Museum to help identify where the buffer zone associated with the prime wetlands on their Depot Road lot is.
- Bryan Berlind reported to the Planning Board that the planned tree thinning will be well over 100 feet away from the prime wetlands at all times.

Great Hill Reservation Trust / Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club

- The Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club and Great Hill Reservation Trust have withdrawn their applications to the state and for a Special Use Permit under the Tamworth Wetlands Ordinance.
- All previously permitted restoration work has been completed.
- David Little suggested that the Commission should follow up with a letter to the NH Office of Energy and Planning since they hold back-up interest in the conservation easement.

Remick Boundary Line Agreement

- Charlie Townsend reported that the estimated cost to prepare this agreement would be \$1,000. He indicated to Bob Cotrell that the Commission believes it is not essential to clarify the boundary at this time and hesitates to take on the expense.
[Charlie Townsend left the meeting.]

Land Acquisition & Easements

Monitoring

- Kathy Bunker will set a date in mid to late September for a training workshop.

Land Trust Standards

- The Conservation Land Review Committee met to finalize the land trust standards which are based on Land Trust Alliance standards and detail the process of taking on easements.
- Commission members were asked to review the final draft for adoption at the August meeting.

Gilman Forest Protection Project

- An announcement of the Society for the Protection of NH Forest's Gilman Forest protection Project has been made public.
- A preliminary description was distributed.
- About \$30,000 of the \$130,000 needed has been raised.
- Site visits are scheduled for August 22 and 23.

Agricultural Land Protection

- Green Mountain Conservation Group is fundraising to cover transaction costs for protecting a Tamworth lot for agricultural and forestry use, as well as lots in Whiteface Intervale and Wonalancet (Albany).
- They have approached the Commission for a contribution toward the \$40,000 needed for transaction costs and stewardship.
- It was noted that this project is consistent with the Master Plan, the Behr Farm property is of central importance, and that a donation would build partnership with other conservation organizations.
- Margaret Rieser moved, and Bill Batchelder seconded, to donate \$200 to the Green Mountain Conservation Group's Behr Farm conservation easement project, with the money to be taken from the Conservation Fund and also to consider an additional contribution at the next meeting. The motion passed with no objection.

Committee / Coordinator Reports

Managed Lands & Trails

- Dave Haskell distributed a list of property owners along the Bearcamp River Trail.
- Clarification is needed as to whether or not access to the trail is being prohibited by a land owner.
- Dave Haskell will contact NH Fish and Game to clarify conflicting information on their website regarding the boundaries of the Hackett Hill WMA.
- John Roberts volunteered to mow the field at Waterfowl Haven. Dave Haskell and Ned Beecher will visit the field and mark locations that should remain uncut. Small pines will need to be cut sometime.
- John Roberts will contact Ned Beecher with the name of a person who might mow the Bearcamp Field. Ned Beecher, Dave Haskell and Margaret Rieser will check for places that need to be left uncut.

Selectman's Representative

- John Roberts reported that the Select Board supports the Gilman property project and also suggested that using the Freeto name may help in fundraising – Mr. Freeto has been known in town a long time.

Planning Board Representative

- David Little reported that the Energy committee had a presence at family day, focused on the street light project.

Tracking Master Plan Implementation

- It was noted that a number of the items covered in this meeting contribute toward this year's focus on the wildlife corridor and trails network.

Adjournment

Dave Haskell moved, and Kathy Bunker seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15. The motion passed with no objection.