

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – November 12, 2018
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Charlie Townsend, Stephanie Doyle and Chele Miller.. Commissioners absent: John Watkins. Alternates present: Dexter Harding and Lucy Gatchell. Nelson assigned Dexter and Lucy to fill the vacant seats.

Also present: Jill Emerson and interns Haley and Victoria, Green Mountain Conservation Group; Steve Gray, Selectman.

Approval of Minutes for 10/15/2018 – Chele moved to accept minutes as written. Batch seconded, motion carried.

Green Mountain Conservation Group, Water Quality Program

Jill Emerson gave an update report on water quality monitoring in Tamworth, which began in 1997. They currently monitor three sites in Tamworth, one each on the Chocorua, Swift and Bearcamp Rivers. Five Tamworth volunteers collect the water samples. Water properties tested include dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH and turbidity. Trace elements such as nitrogen and phosphorous are also tested but, due to a backlog at the UNH lab, results of the latest samples are not available yet. One site has shown an increase in conductivity but all results are still within recommended parameters. For 2019, GMCG hopes to restart the “Get Wet” program at Brett School and do some well testing if the grant application is approved.

Administrative/Announcements

Received interoffice memo that the November 15 Selectmen's meeting will be at the Brett School and will have two public hearings: acceptance and expenditure of FEMA funds, and transfer station fee changes and the changes in recycling.

Financial

Chele moved to authorize reimbursement of \$38.14 to the Administrative Assistant for the purchase of office supplies. Stephanie seconded, motion carried.

Board of Selectmen – Steve Gray reported that the board is reviewing town employee evaluations. He reminded the commission of the public hearings on November 15 and he announced that a proposal to form a sewer district is in the works; it would be for those using the village sewer system.

Land Conservation

The Community School – Paul King is currently surveying the property to be transferred. Then it will go to the Planning Board.

Alt Lot 414/58 – The NH Attorney General Office has reviewed and approved the proposed easement. Dexter moved to recommend to the Selectmen that they accept the easement on Tax Map/Lot 414/58. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Payne Lot 411/34 – Nelson and Scott Aspinall have met with Grace Payne and discussed options for the hold-out area. They will go back out to flag up a suggested area for Grace's consideration.

Public Education and Outreach

Summer Camp Committee – Dexter reported meeting with Tin Mountain Conservation Center to discuss the possibility of doing a cooperative program. The idea is to add one week to the two weeks Tin Mountain already does in Tamworth. It would be open to the Explorer group, in the 12-15 year old range and similar to the Sandwich program in that it would visit various places in Tamworth. Tin Mountain is currently writing up a proposal and they will probably be seeking assistance from TCC for providing transportation. Tamworth Foundation has shown an interest and may be willing to provide funding. Nelson reported that Parker Roberts is aware of this program and he is willing to work out his schedule so that the two programs do not compete with each other.

SPARCnet – Set up of the two salamander plots in the Remick Natural Area has been completed and everything is ready to begin sampling in April of next year.

Easement Monitoring – Inspection reports are coming in. They should all be completed within the next few weeks.

Managed Lands and Trails

Hemenway Kiosk – Lucy has added some historical documentation and Dana Steele's poem and mounted it under plexiglass. Discussed moving the Ossipee Valley Snowmobile stuff to a corner and putting “Tamworth Conservation Commission” on top. Also decided it would be good to have a map showing which routes are snowmobile trails and adding something about the Hikin' Herons program.

TCC Trails – Nelson mentioned that the recent weather events have probably resulted in more blowdowns on the trails. Please report any new blowdowns that you can't remove yourself.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Stephanie seconded (I'm pretty sure it was Stephanie this time). Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.