

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – May 13, 2019
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Dexter Harding, William Batchelder, Chele Miller, Charlie Townsend and Stephanie Doyle. Commissioners absent: John Watkins. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell, Ned Beecher, Eric Dube and Kit Morgan. Nelson assigned Ned to fill the vacant seat.

Approval of Minutes for 03/11/2019 – Batch moved to accept minutes as written. Dexter seconded, motion carried.

Administrative/Announcements

Received copy of DES forestry notification for Tax Map 411, Lot 56

The Selectmen will be meeting with NH OSI on June 29 at 5 pm to discuss floodplain regulations. Nelson will attend.

Committee assignments – Nelson reviewed the various TCC committee assignments. Everyone agreed to continue with the committees they have been on. These assignments will be on the 2019 roster, to be distributed at the next meeting.

The new Selectman's representative for TCC is Aaron Ricker. Dan Poirier is the alternate. Nelson is still waiting for contact information.

Financial – Charlie reported \$6720 of the annual budget remains unspent as of May 1. The Administrative Assistant noted that a payroll expenditure has been made and it will show up on the next statement. Charlie reported that the current balance of the Conservation Fund is \$86,201. Charlie moved to authorize a reimbursement payment of \$65 to Chele Miller to cover expenses for attending Saving Special Places. Stephanie seconded, motion carried.

Planning Board – Eric reported that the only Planning Board business he has to discuss is on this meeting's agenda so he will wait.

Land Conservation

Alt Easements – Chris Alt is still looking to merge and simplify his easements. He has bought out His brother Ed and now holds full title to all the Alt land east of Bunker Hill Road except for Jim's lot with the saw mill. SPNHF likes the concept but will neither give up any of their executive interests nor accept any new executive interests. That seems to be a deal killer but it is up to Chris and SPNHF to see if they can work something out.

Community School Land Purchase – Paul King is finishing up the land survey and he will be on the June Planning Board agenda for review.

Master Plan – The Planning Board is meeting with all town agencies to discuss the goals and implementation plans of the 2008 Master Plan. Nelson will be meeting with them on June 12th. Anyone interested in discussing the Master Plan is welcome.

Landfill PFA – Five wells near the capped landfill have been tested for PFA. Three wells were in the abutting mobile home park. All five wells were reported to be non-detected for PFA. That's good news. It is assumed that all these wells will be tested periodically.

Public Education and Outreach

Summer Camp Committee – Dexter reported that the Tamworth Trailblazers summer camp has 12 campers registered; five are from Tamworth. A \$700 grant has been received from the Tamworth Foundation, to go toward covering registration costs for Tamworth residents. TCC has another \$700 budgeted for summer camp programs. Chele moved to authorize splitting \$700 between the five Tamworth resident campers (\$140 each) to be applied to their costs. Ned seconded, motion carried. The \$700 in the TCC budget can be used to cover operating expenses

of the summer program and/or other summer camp opportunities that may arise. There is also a grant application to NH Charitable Foundation that is pending. Their decision should be known in June.

UNH-CE Bioblitz – Nelson announced that he has applied to UNH-CE to have a bioblitz at Black Spruce Bog Ponds Natural Area, as discussed at the March meeting. A description of a bioblitz can be found at this link: <https://extension.unh.edu/blog/nature-counts-new-hampshire>

SPARCnet – The first red-back salamander census was done May 5th at the Earle Remick Natural Area. There will be a second census Saturday, May 18, 9:30 am, open to any TCC member. The plan is to have the third census on the weekend of June 1, open to the public. Chris Conrod will post on the Tamworth Exchange and Stephanie will make and post fliers.

Bird Walks – Ned reported that the bird walks (Wednesday mornings, 7 am, meet at the Town House parking lot) have been well attended; 15 – 20 people at each walk. The 15th is the last scheduled walk but Ned may have one more the following week.

Saving Special Places – Chele reported that the event was well worth attending. She attended a workshop on philosophy and ethics of land conservation and another workshop on carbon credits.

Wetlands

Dredge and Fill Application for Tax Map 410, Lots 87 & 88 – This is an after the fact application; it has been going on for three years. HEB Engineers (Bergeron) has been hired to re-do the application. General consensus was that the plans looked good and most of the work has already been done; there's no need to submit any comments at this time.

Dredge and Fill Application for Tax Map 402, Lots 7, 15, 16 & 17 – This is a stream habitat improvement application submitted by Dick Fortin. He has done numerous projects like this over the past few years and TCC members have inspected the work. Stephanie moved to reply to NH-DES Wetlands bureau that the proposed work is “fine with us.” Dexter seconded, motion carried.

Pine Tree Power Water Discharge – Kit reported that earlier this year Pine Tree Power was granted a temporary permit to discharge 100,000 gallons of cooling water at four different sites near the power plant. The water had to be diluted 4:1 to meet groundwater quality standards. Testing after the discharge showed high levels of arsenic. There's talk that Pine Tree Power will apply for a long term permit to periodically discharge cooling water. Kit (or anyone else in the know) will keep TCC posted on further developments.

Managed Lands & Trails – It's time to do some trail clearing. Nelson will send out a call for volunteers and work out assignments similar to how it was done last year. Batch reported that all Trail boxes survived the winter and are now filled with trail maps and brochures. Lucy reported at least two camp fire rings that need to be cleaned up at the fire tower.

Other Business

Nelson reported that Harold Cook has his Depot Street property on the market. Lakes Region Conservation Trust is looking at the property but at this time there are no concrete offers or plans.

Lucy is working on a salamander theme for the July 4 parade.

Chele reported that Susan Morse will be in the area later this year. If Tin Mountain, Green Mountain Conservation Group or any other organization would like to host a Sue Morse presentation, Chele can get Sue to contact them.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Stephanie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.