

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – October 14, 2019

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Chele Miller, Dexter Harding, Stephanie Doyle and Charlie Townsend. Commissioners absent: John Watkins. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell and Eric Dube. Nelson assigned Eric to fill one vacant seat and Lucy sat in until Chele arrived during Administrative announcements.

Also present: Lynne Flaccus.

Approval of Minutes for 09/16/2019 – Eric moved to accept minutes as written. Batch seconded, motion carried.

Administrative/Announcements –

Received thank-you note from Tin Mountain Conservation Center for partnership in the Tamworth Trailblazers program.

Reminder that the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting is scheduled for November 2. Remember to submit payment request through the Town Office.

Financial

Charlie reported that there is \$2617.45 left in the 2019 TCC operating budget. The Conservation Fund balance is \$67,397.62.

Received dues notice from New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions. Charlie moved to authorize payment of \$275 for dues payment. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Nelson and Charlie will meet with the Selectmen and/or Budget Committee on October 24 to review the proposed 2020 TCC Budget. Time to be determined.

Land Conservation

Payne – Awaiting final survey plan from Paul King.

Padgett – Still no concrete proposal from the family.

Conservation Land Fact Sheet – Reviewed draft of fact sheet prepared by the Administrative Assistant. Agreed it should include a discussion of the differences between current use land and conservation land. Also, in the “what is” and “cost” sections, clarify that conservation land is assessed at the same value as any other property.

Public Education and Outreach

SPARCnet – The first two fall salamander censuses have been done. The third census is scheduled for 9 am on October 26. It will be open to the public. An additional, exploratory transect of 20 cover boards has been set up in the floodplain.

Summer Camp Programs – Lucy has talked with Gail Marrone and Heather Feddern, who ran a Brett School related children's summer program this year. They want to continue it next year and are interested in working with TCC, rather than have two competing summer programs in Tamworth. This would help ensure that TCC's efforts are going to benefit Tamworth residents. Agreed to have Lucy continue discussion with Gail and Heather.

Easement Monitoring – Inspection reports are coming in and the rest are being scheduled. Remember to send them to the Administrative Assistant.

Wetlands

Swift River Work on Riverbank – Nelson reported that he filed a complaint to NH-DES concerning the filling of a riverbank with no state approval. Other individuals also filed complaints. NH-DES has sent a letter to the landowner but Nelson has received no further information. He will check to see what the status is.

Managed Lands and Trails

Fire Tower Panorama – Lucy reported that the panorama pictures in the tower are fading. They were replaced two or three years ago. She will investigate means of producing a more permanent set of panoramas.

Maps and Signs – Lucy suggested that a permanent trail map be available at each natural area to serve for those times when the map box is empty. It was pointed out that people can and often do use their cell phones to take pictures of a map at a trailhead for use while hiking. Agreed that signboards for displaying a plasticized or laminated map at each trailhead would be useful.

Tree clearing at Fire Tower – Nelson reported that Tamworth Wireless is having issues with trees blocking signals to and from the fire tower. There are approximately 10 trees, mainly small, that would need to be removed to improve the signal. Nelson has contacted Bob Hardy at NH Division of Forests and Lands. Bob will inspect the area soon. Eric moved that TCC make a statement in support of the request by Tamworth Wireless. Stephanie seconded, motion carried.

Other Business – Stephanie announced that Rick Van de Poll will be leading a mushroom walk at White Lake State Park on October 20 at 10 am. She asked if anyone on the commission knew about state park fees for groups using park land. No one was familiar with NH State Park fee policy.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Eric seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.