

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – February 8, 2021
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm via Zoom. Commissioners on line were Nelson O'Bryan, Kit Morgan, Chele Miller, William Batchelder and Charlie Townsend. Commissioners absent: Stephanie Doyle. Alternates on line: Lucy Gatchell, Eric Dube and Ned Beecher. Nelson assigned Ned to fill a vacant seat.

Also on line: Melanie Streeter, Board of Selectmen; Trent Millum, Green Mountain Conservation Group; Dylan Alden; Jeremy Phillips and Anneliese Smith.

Approval of Minutes for 11/9/2020 – Charlie moved to accept the minutes as written. Kit seconded, motion carried. Ned abstained.

Administrative and Announcements – Nelson reported that Tom Howe, of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, passed away on January 26 due to a tragic accident. TCC worked with Tom on numerous land conservation projects over the past 25 years. He will be missed by the entire New Hampshire community of conservationists.

Financial – Charlie reported that, being in the limbo between the end of year and town meeting, he has no financial statements to report. One bill has been received: \$20 for making a trail sign, submitted by Chris Conrod. Charlie asked if anyone has seen this alledged sign. The Administrative Assistant claimed that he had seen it. Charlie moved to approve payment of the bill. Ned seconded, motion carried.

Melanie announced that the Selectboard will hold a public hearing for the proposed 2021 budget at the Townhouse on Thursday, February 11 at 6 pm. It can also be accessed via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83544647681?pwd=WmlwZ2ljV1VtV2M1M0VKK3BCQS9Ydz09>.

Meeting ID: 966 0110 7465, Password is 498937

– ZOOM BOMB –

...a few minutes later, back to business

Rivers Water Quality Testing Report – Green Mountain Conservation Group

Trent Millum reported on the 2020 results of GMCG's water quality monitoring. Three sites in Tamworth: Bearcamp River, Swift River and Chocorua River. Analytes and environmental characteristics measured include turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, and total phosphorous. Swift and Chocorua Rivers are holding stable and well within standards, although there is an indication that salt content has increased for Chocorua River. Testing at Bearcamp River shows an increase in turbidity and total phosphorous, and pH has dropped down to around 6. GMCG will continue testing to see if a trend develops at Bearcamp River.

TCC Membership – Three people attending the meeting have expressed an interest in serving with TCC. Anneliese Smith is an outdoor educator, working mainly with young children. She is willing to accept an appointment to the commission. Jeremy Phillips is a naturalist-environmental educator working with Squam Lakes Natural Science Center. He has served on TCC before and he is willing to serve again. Dylan Alden is with the United States Forest Service and she works as a backcountry recreation manager in the Saco District of White Mountain National Forest. She would like to continue attending meetings and learning more about the commission.

Nelson reported that his term and Batch's term expire this year. Nelson is willing to accept a new term; Batch has asked for a term as an Alternate. Ned Beecher's term as Alternate also expires this year. He is willing to accept a new term.

Chele moved to recommend to the Selectboard that they appoint Nelson, Anneliese and Jeremy to three-year terms as Commissioners, and that they appoint Ned and Batch to three-year terms as Alternates. Ned seconded, motion carried.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Chocorua Park LLC Easement – Nelson provided the town attorney with a copy of the proposed easement, which included revisions addressing plan review for new structures and physical access for the public, as voted during the November 2020 meeting. The town attorney reviewed the proposed easement and suggested adding clauses delineating what activities/uses are allowed or disallowed. The grantors state that they are still interested in pursuing the project but at the present time they are dealing with other issues. Meanwhile, Nelson is asking the commissioners to individually consider what uses should be allowed or disallowed, based on the general purpose of a conservation easement to conserve natural resources, and to be ready for further discussion at a future meeting.

Public Education & Outreach

Summer Camp Sponsorships – Lucy reported that Tin Mountain Conservation Center is currently setting up their summer camp programs. She will talk with Donna Ulitz to see if there will be any Brett School programs that TCC could sponsor.

Wetlands – No new permit applications or notices concerning ongoing issues.

Handicapped Accessible Trail – Tamworth Community Nurse Association has formed a committee to investigate creating a handicapped accessible trail in Tamworth. They have identified the property of Christopher Alt on Bunker Hill Road and along Mill Brook as a possible location. Christopher is receptive to the idea and the committee is working on a plan. The trail would be on a number of conservation easements held by TCC. When and if Christopher and the committee come to agreement on a specific plan, it will be submitted for review by TCC. Because Christopher and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests are in negotiations over consolidating the easements and transferring granteeship to the Forest Society, the Society should also review the plans.

Discussion: Questions and concerns raised included costs of the project, maintenance responsibility, parking areas, and incompatibility of hardpack, graded trails with logging operations or farm machinery.

Managed Lands and Trails

Hikin' Heron Patches – Stephanie has ordered more patches as voted at the November 2020 meeting. There was a problem with the order but it has been straightened out and the patches are expected to arrive soon.

Kudos Received and Given – Beth McCarthy sent her thanks for the new trail maps posted at the trailheads, accomplished by Lucy and Batch. TCC thanks Wyatt Berrier for clearing some large pine blowdowns and using one of the logs to carve a seat for weary hikers.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Chele moved, Kit seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.