

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – May 8, 2017

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned Beecher called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Commissioners present were Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, William Batchelder, Ned Beecher, Stephanie Doyle and John Watkins. Commissioners absent: Nelson O'Bryan. Alternates present: Eric Dube and Lucy Gatchell. Ned directed Lucy to sit in the empty seat.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Corey Lane, Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG); Lynn Flaccus, Chocorua Lake Conservancy; Two landowners, Tax Map/Lot 214/183.

Approval of Minutes for 04/10/2017 – Moved by Batch to accept the minutes as written. Chele seconded, motion carried. Ned abstained.

Administrative Announcements: Received upland invasive species pamphlet from Pat Farley, assumed intended recipient is Nelson; returned it to the mail in-box.

Proposed Gas Station in West Ossipee – Corey Lane, GMCG, updated the Commission on the Ossipee Planning Board Site Plan review for the proposed gas station at the corner of Routes 16 and 41. The next meeting will be on May 16, when the board will likely make a decision. She thinks it will probably pass. She also reported on an appeal initiated by the Town of Freedom concerning a planned development expansion on Ossipee Lake. Steve Gray described the Tamworth Selectmen's attempt to get involved in the West Ossipee process and the last meeting he attended. He felt that any further action by the Selectmen would be unproductive and possibly counterproductive. Corey urges any Tamworth people who have information to add to the deliberation to attend the May 16 Ossipee Planning Board meeting.

Planning Board – Eric reported that the Planning Board is looking into getting the Tamworth Tax Map geo-referenced, which would be quite expensive. The commissioners showed enough interest in this process that Eric will invite David Little to the June TCC meeting to explain the concept and the process.

DES Wetlands Application for Tax Map/Lot 214/183 – The landowners of 214/183 inquired about TCC's involvement in the application process, which was discussed at the March 13 meeting, and offered some information concerning the bridge. It was explained to them that TCC receives copies of all state wetlands applications and has the opportunity to comment on them. In this case, TCC replied to the DES with three comments, all centered on a recommendation that the work be inspected after the snow cover was gone. The landowners reported that DES did go out and inspect the work and that the inspector was satisfied with the work.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – John reported that the reimbursement payments authorized at the April meeting have been completed except for his \$60 reimbursement for attending Saving Special Places. There is currently 73% remaining of the 2017 \$7457 budget.

Land Conservation

Community School: Chele reported for Nelson that TCS wants to put conservation easements on the two areas north of Bunker Hill Road and northeast of Route 113 that are now reserved for future development. The areas total about 4-1/2 to 5 acres. The School is asking the Commission if TCC would be willing to contribute to the cost of an opinion of value. Effects of adding these two areas to the surrounding conservation land include limiting further

development of the school or other future land uses and providing a buffer to protect the pristine appearance of Jackman Pond. Chele moved to authorize expending up to \$700 to cover costs of the Opinion of Value for the proposed TCS conservation easement. Stephanie seconded, motion carried. Agreed that it would be best to have these funds come from the operating budget.

Bearcamp Valley Farm: Ned reported that he received a call from Gary Floyd, son of the late Bob Floyd, who asked a few simple questions concerning the conservation easement. Not pertaining to any specific plans; he just wanted to understand the easement. Ned added that Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) is still interested in having their fields across the street actively managed for agriculture. Ned plans a return courtesy call to Gary, just to keep the line of communication active and encourage a conversation between Gary, the BVF lessees, and LRCT. Rich reminded the commission that there are two easement corner pins removed by Bob because they impeded day-to-day farm work. They need to be replaced. This should probably be covered by TCC as general stewardship costs.

Public Education and Outreach

Mushroom Walks: Stephanie has chosen two dates for the TCC sponsored mushroom walks: September 3 and October 1. Start time will 1 pm. She will coordinate with Rick Van de Poll to be sure the dates don't conflict with related events and to get the dates listed on Rick's mail list.

Family Day: Some commissioners are interested in having a table or booth at the Brett School on Family Day (July 4). In addition to the usual TCC brochures/maps/etc, there could be games, wildlife paraphernalia borrowed from Tin Mountain, and a guided walk or treasure hunt on the Remick Natural Area. Those truly interested in participating should come to the June meeting with concrete plans.

Easement Monitoring – It's never too early to monitor your easement. Tally of 2017 monitoring inspections completed to date = 0.

DES Expedited Wetlands Application for Tax Map/Lot 411/41 – Ned reported that he signed off on the application submitted by Tin Mountain Conservation Center for another experimental trout habitat improvement project on an unnamed brook between Great Hill Road and Swift River. They are proposing the same activity as was done during previous projects on Sanborn Brook. Ned will contact Dick Fortin and ask him to notify the landowner directly across Swift River.

Managed Lands and Trails – Chele reported that Nelson has passed out trail work assignments to those who signed up. He would probably be able to find some more work for anyone interested.

Other Business – Batch reminded everyone that TCC owns a pop-up tent that could be used on Family Day. For the rest of the week it will be lent out to The Preserve at Chocorua for use in the Festival of the Arts.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Stephanie seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.