

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – May 9, 2016

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, Bob Seston, Chele Miller, Rich Gerard,, Ned Beecher. and Stephanie Doyle. Commissioners absent: William Batchelder. Alternates present: John Watkins, Eric Dube. Nelson designated John to sit in Batch's empty seat.

Also present: Tom Howard, Ed Moscati & Gary Albee, agent and owners of property along Route 25 in South Tamworth; John Mersfelder, Katy Thompson & David Little; CLRC members; David White; and Lynne Flaccus.

Approval of Minutes for 04/11/2016 – Moved by Ned to accept the minutes with corrections: Under Administrative/Committees, formally should be formerly. In Conservation Easements, second line Tax Map 203/1 should be 203-69. John seconded, motion carried.

Administrative

Announcements: Received Notice of Intent from NH-DOT to replace culvert on Great Hill Road. Nelson will turn it over to Batch.

Chocorua Mountain Club trail work day is May 14, 8:30 am; meet at the Wheeler field.

WODC trail work day is May 14, 8:30 am; meet at Ferncroft kiosk.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – Bob reported that the only expense payed out so far is \$478.31 for Administrative Assistant wages. The request for reimbursing John and Chele for Saving Special Places expenses has been submitted to Darlene.

Conservation Easements

Albee-Moscati Properties – Tom Howard reported that he is working with Ed Moscati and Gary Albee to subdivide lots 203/69 & 70 to create two smaller building lots and to sell the remainder, which will include the historical dam and mill areas and a substantial length of Bearcamp River frontage, to a conservation organization. LRCT is interested in purchasing the property; their board will be discussing it soon. NHF&G is interested in seeing the property conserved and might be able to provide some funding. Further funding will be applied for through an LCHIP grant. TCC will wait to see what the LRCT board decides and then the Conservation Lands Review Committee will meet and recommend to TCC what, if any, involvement TCC could have in this land conservation project.

SanDonato Lot – David White reported that the owner of lot 405/7 has re-initiated discussion concerning land conservation. The proposal is a fee-simple sale of the land minus a small parcel around the buildings. David has contacted SPNHF (not interested) and LRCT, which does have some interest because the property is near LRCT land. Agreed by TCC that the landowner needs to provide the specifics of the intended subdivision and an asking price for the land he intends to sell. Tom Howard has previously provided an Opinion of Value for a conservation easement on the property and could probably supply a relatively inexpensive O of V for a fee simple purchase when the landowner has a solid proposal.

Abraham House Lot – Bob Abraham contacted Nelson and informed him that he has a potential buyer for lot 412/6.3, situated on the east corner of Meader Road and Brown Hill Road (17.8 acres, \$120,000). Bob would be willing to sell the property to a conservation organization for the same price, or put a conservation easement on the property for the same

price. Neither TCC nor the Town of Tamworth are interested in fee simple purchase of land that would remove it from the tax base. The price would be too high for a conservation easement.

Planning Board – Eric Dube reported that there is now a computer and printer in the hallway of the Town Office and available to the public to use for property tax research. In the past month, the Planning Board approved two boundary line adjustments (Tax map/lots 217/17 & 21, and 218/7 & 10).

Public Education and Outreach – 250th Celebration progress reports:

Tree Cookie – The display is just about ready. It will be set up at the Cook Memorial Library by May 17.

Photo Contest – Nelson reported that submissions have slowed down. He would like to get a few more before he awards the prizes for the winter scenes. He'll do some more PR to see if he can get some more photos submitted.

250 Hikin' Herons – There was a snafu on ordering the special patches but they will be coming soon. We already have eight or nine new applications for the patch. Ned moved to authorize up to \$60 for purchasing an embosser to use on the hiking forms/certificates. John seconded, motion carried.

Student Scholarship: We are again having problems finding student candidates for the scholarship funds. Rich will talk with Ann McGarity to see if she has any ideas.

Co-sponsor with Cook Library: The Groundwater program by Jeff Marts is all set for June 8, 7 pm. No funds needed from TCC.

Co-sponsor with WODC: Chele proposed the weekend of November 18-20 for the presentation and field trip with Sue Morse. Topics could be cougars or climate change in the Arctic. Evening presentation at Brett School on Friday, field walk would be daytime Saturday or Sunday. Chele will coordinate with Squam Lakes Science Center, who may also want to sponsor a presentation. Cost to TCC will be around \$400.

Family Day Parade on July 4: Nelson asked if any commissioners have ideas for a TCC presence in the parade. If so, any commitment will have to be finalized at the June meeting.

Managed Lands and Trails – Nelson reported that he got a good response from trail volunteers to do the spring trail work. Half of the trails have been completed and the rest will be done soon. There is a sign needed at the Easy Walkers Trail. The Administrative Assistant will make one.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, John moved, Stephanie seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.