

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – October 10, 2016

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, William Batchelder, Ned Beecher and Bob Seston. Commissioners absent: Stephanie Doyle. Alternates present: John Watkins. Nelson designated John to sit in the empty seat.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Bob Hardy and Shaun Bresnahan, NH-DFL; Jack Waldorn; Leslie Johnson.

Approval of Minutes for 09/12/2016 – Moved by Batch to accept the minutes as written. John seconded, motion carried. Ned abstained.

Planned Timber Harvest in Hemenway State Forest – Bob Hardy and Shaun Bresnahan described the timber harvest that the State intends to perform next summer. The location includes both sides of Old Mail Road. There will be one 7.9 acre clearcut of poor quality hardwoods (mostly diseased beech), a few group and patch cuts, and about 40 acres of a pine shelterwood cut, which will leave all the largest pines. Wetland, brook and road buffers will be maintained. In terms of forest age classes, this harvest will get the Hemenway Forest closer to – but still far short of – industry standards (it's an “over-mature” forest). Leslie Johnson raised a concern about the direction along Old Mail Road that the logs would be trucked. She had concerns about the hiker's parking area at the Swift River bridge and others questioned the ability of the log trucks to negotiate the sharp turn at the intersection with Chinook Trail. Bob Hardy was concerned about the number of residences the trucks would have to pass if they went in the direction of Gardner Hill Road. Bob will take a look at the Swift River bridge intersection and discuss it with the Tamworth Road Agent. Leslie Johnson also suggested that the Big Pines protected area be expanded. Bob explained that TCC holds the permit for that area, which is defined by a set distance from the trails, and it would be up to TCC to propose any changes to the permit and explain the purpose for the changes. At that point, the State would have something to review.

Administrative

Announcements: Received three new Hikin' Heron forms. Nelson reminded everyone that the NHACC annual meeting is on November 12 at Pembroke Academy.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – Bob reported that, assuming the two outstanding bills would be paid (see below), TCC has spent \$4116.41 of the 2016 budget.

Bill from GMCG for water quality monitoring; \$900. Bob moved, Ned seconded, motion carried.

NHACC Dues; \$296. Bob moved, Chele seconded, motion carried.

Proposed 2017 Annual Budget – Agreed that the current budget should be adequate for 2017 except that the Administrative Assistant has taken on the task of digitizing permanent records and has been assigned additional clerical duties concerning conservation easement monitoring. Ned moved to submit the current budget with a 10% increase in the clerical line to cover additional work, and to recommend to the Selectmen that the Administrative Assistant be included in any COLA adjustments that may be approved at Town Meeting. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Selectmen – Steve Gray just returned from a long trip and is still catching up on Town business.

Conservation Easements – Nelson reported that there are no new developments in the local land protection scene but David White is still pursuing funding options.

Public Education and Outreach

Tree Cookie – Chele reported that when the Chocorua Library is through with displaying the cookie it will be returned to Mead Base.

Photo Contest – Nelson brought in six photos for the commissioners to chose a winner in the spring/summer contest. TCC chose a photo by Kim Trammell. Nelson will advertise for submissions in the fall photo contest, which will be open until October 31.

Managed Lands and Trails

Mowing – Peter Dancy has not mowed the Waterfowl Haven field yet. Nelson will check with him.

Other business – Chele reported that posters for the Sue Morse presentation/field trips on November 18-19 have been put up. She said that WODC will make payments and collect donations/fees, and then settle with TCC.

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

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.