

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – November 14, 2016

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned Beecher called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioners present were Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, William Batchelder and Ned Beecher. Commissioners absent: Stephanie Doyle, Nelson O'Bryan and Bob Seston. Alternates present: John Watkins and Eric Dube. Ned designated John and Eric to sit in two of the three empty seats.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Carolyn Hemingway, Green Mountain Conservation Group; Lynn Flaccus, Chocorua Lake Conservancy.

Approval of Minutes for 10/10/2016 – Moved by Batch to accept the corrected minutes (161010-TCC_minutes-corrected, dated October 18, 2016) as written. Chele seconded, motion carried. Eric abstained.

Administrative

Announcements: TCC is scheduled to meet with the Selectmen on December 5 at 10:45 am to review the proposed 2017 annual budget.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – Ned reported that 42% of the annual budget is unexpended to date. TCC has spent \$4116.41. Professional fees and fire tower maintenance are two line items that are significantly under-spent.

LUCT Tax – Ned stated that it has been about 15 years since the Town voted to place all Land Use Change Tax proceeds, up to \$5000, in the TCC Conservation Fund. Commissioners discussed pros and cons of reintroducing the article at the 2017 Town Meeting, to increase the maximum amount of money to adjust for inflation. It was agreed that, if an article were to be introduced, it should not be worded so that it could be interpreted as negating the original article if the new article was voted down. Eric moved to introduce an article, by petition, to the 2017 Tamworth Town Meeting, to increase the maximum LUCT proceeds to be deposited in the Conservation Fund to \$7500. Batch seconded. Motion carried. Ned will write up the proposed article. TCC will have it reviewed by legal counsel.

Selectmen – Steve Gray reported that he recently attended a meeting with the Sandwich Selectmen concerning perambulation of the Sandwich-Tamworth town line, particularly at the southern end. There is conflicting evidence as to the exact location of the line. At present, parties are sharing information, so that everyone is familiar with all the available evidence.

Planning Board – Eric reported that the Board approved a lot merger (Tax Map lots 205/15 and 206/16). Fairpoint would like to remove some additional trees on Cleveland Hill Road, not in the original application. The Board determined that Fairpoint should submit a new application.

Conservation Easements – Chele reported that the LRCT grant submission to LCHIP for purchasing the proposed Albee-Moscatti property has little chance of being granted. LRCT is not interested in the property if they don't get the grant. David White is beating the bushes to find either funding or another interested party.

Public Education and Outreach

Susan Morse Presentation – Chele reminded everyone that the “Cougar Returns to the East” presentation is November 18. The field trips on the 19th are filled.

Possible Co-sponsor with Cook Library – Chele reported that the Library is interested in co-sponsoring a presentation by John Harris on March 29, 2017. Chele moved to authorize expenditure of up to \$50 to co-sponsor the presentation. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Photo Contest – Ned passed out six “finalist” photos chosen by Nelson for the fall Tamworth 250th photo contest. The Commissioners chose photo “A” as the winner. Only Nelson knows the identity of the photographer.

Easement Monitoring – Chele reminded everyone that the 2016 easement monitoring reports must be completed soon. Batch and Ned are done with theirs. Nelson and Eric have some/most of their work completed.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Eric seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.