

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – March 9, 2015

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, William Batchelder, Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, Bob Seston, Shannon Maes and Ned Beecher. Commissioners absent: None. Alternates present: John Watkins, Charlie Townsend and Eric Dube. Also present: Sam Martin.

Approval of Minutes for 02/09/2015 – Batch moved to accept the minutes with the correction (offered by Rich) that, under the Wetlands/Shoreland Protection section, Cersosimo should be removed as a former owner of the former Saunders lot (203/70) on the Bearcamp River.

Announcements – NH-DES wetlands permit received concerning work in the Wonalancet River behind the Chapel; Two NH-DES Complete Forestry Notifications: 412/23, 25 and 412/20. Announced opportunity for SPNHF Porter-Rogerson Forest property steward position.

Reappointments – The Selectmen have approved the reappointments of Nelson and Batch. They have been sworn in and are serving new terms that will expire in 2018.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – Bob has not yet received any monthly statements; the annual budget will be voted on at town meeting. There have been no expenditures since the last TCC meeting.

Election of Officers – Batch moved to re-elect the current officers to serve for 2015, specifically: Chair, Nelson O'Bryan; Vice Chair, Ned Beecher; Treasurer, Bob Seston; Secretary, Chele Miller. Ned seconded, motion carried.

Conservation Easement Guidelines – The Conservation Lands Review Committee (CLRC) has developed a list of eight standards to be used in the consideration of land parcel candidates for conservation easements and asked that the standards be accepted as TCC policy and included in the handbook. The Commission recommended that standard #8 be separated from the list and be stated in paragraph form. It was also suggested that the Master Plan be referenced in the standards. Shannon moved to accept the proposed standards as amended. Chele seconded, motion carried. The Administrative assistant will provide copies of the amended standards and copies of the Land Trust Standards and Practices to be inserted into each individual commissioner's handbook.

Bearcamp Valley Farm Eastern Field – Ned reported that a purchase and sale agreement is being worked out between the owner and Lakes Region Conservation Trust for a fee-simple purchase of the Eastern Field, on which the Town of Tamworth holds a conservation easement. This transaction was part of the original plan when TCC first got involved. CLRC will be doing fundraising for the purchase. Sale price is a little over \$20,000. TCC should consider contributing to the project by covering some of the transaction costs. Completion of the transaction will benefit TCC by reducing the probability of any significant future easement stewardship/enforcement costs.

Wonalancet Land Conservation Activity – Nelson reported that WPA and WODC are engaged in a land protection effort in Wonalancet. Some of the area is in Tamworth and also in TCC's W.O.W. focus area. Nelson passed out a map of the area and suggested that commissioners review it, consider if and how it might fit in with TCC land protection projects, and what, if any, TCC involvement would be advisable.

Conservation Easement Article in Northern Woodlands Magazine – Nelson recommended that TCC members read the Northern Woodlands article on conservation easements in the Spring 2015 issue. He will email copies of the article to the Commission.

250th Town Anniversary – More brainstorming on TCC's role in the celebration. Ideas discussed: In respect to the treasure hunt idea, one treasure could be find the largest glacial erratic. Indigenous history/technology, particularly the role hornfels played in what later became Tamworth. Art show based on early Tamworth. Build a trail.

Easement Monitoring – Chele discussed the possibility of going digital for all monitoring reports. For now, reports can be submitted either by emailing a digital copy to the Administrative Assistant or by putting it in the proper folder in the bottom drawer of the filing cabinet. There is only one folder for each easement (or group of easements) in the bottom drawer. Chele reminded all that easement monitoring does not have to be done in late fall. Early Spring, before the leaves open up and herbaceous growth gets thick, is a good time for monitoring.

Wetlands/Shoreland Protection – There has been no news of any further developments concerning the construction on the old log yard on the Bearcamp river (Tax Map 203 Lot 70). TCC concerns were passed on to Selectman Jim Hidden.

Managed Lands – Reort of a large blowdown on the Betty Steele Trail below the fire tower. Extensive work will be needed to remove it. Please send trail condition reports to Nelson when you get out on the trails this Spring.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.