

## **Tamworth Conservation Commission**

Draft Minutes – March 10, 2014

*Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting*

**Call to Order** – Nelson called meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Bob Seston, Chele Miller, Shannon Maes, Rich Gerard, and William Batchelder. Absent commissioners: Ned Beecher. Alternates present were Eric Dube and John Watkins. Nelson appointed Eric to sit in the vacant commissioner's chair.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Becca Boyden, Planning Board; Mark Lane; and Sam Martin.

**Approval of Minutes for 02/10/2014** – Batch moved to accept with the correction that Ned appointed the alternates; not Nelson. Shannon seconded, motion carried.

### **Administrative –**

**Announcements** – None

**Election of Officers** – All officers agreed to continue serving in their respective positions. Batch moved to elect the following slate of TCC officers for 2014: Chair, Nelson O'Bryan; Vice-chair, Ned Beecher; Treasurer, Bob Seston; Secretary, Chele Miller. Eric seconded, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Bob reported that TCC has expended \$573.80 so far this year. TCC has received a check in the amount of \$61,777.00 from a private foundation to be applied toward the purchase of the Bearcamp Valley Farm Southern Lots conservation easement. It is estimated that TCC will have to provide an additional \$500 at most to cover all expenses of purchasing the easement. Recording fees for the BVF easement will be as much as \$125; Ned will take care of this. Bob moved to authorize up to \$125 to reimburse Ned for recording fees. Batch seconded. Motion carried.

### **Representative Reports**

**Selectmen** – Steve Gray reported that the Selectmen have included in the town meeting warrant funding for planning for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the charter of Tamworth. He suggested that TCC think about what it might want to do in regard to celebrating the event. Geoffrey Burke will be doing a presentation on axes March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Cook Library. Two Tamworth houses made it into the recent issue of New Hampshire Homes magazine.

**Planning Board** – Becca Boyden reported on an application from PSNH to cut trees on Hollow Hill Road for installing a half-mile of power lines. The Planning Board asked PSNH to come back with a plan that would require less tree cutting. The current owners of Chocorua Valley Lumber property have applied for a boundary line adjustment between two of the lots. This adjustment would place all of the conservation easement on one lot.

### **Conservation Lands Review Committee**

**Bearcamp Valley Farm Southern Lots** – Project was completed last month. TCC has received a forest management plan from the forester involved with the current timber harvest. The final payment for the easement will be due in June; the funds have already been raised.

**Gilman West – Reich Fundraising** – TCC hosted a walk and slide presentation ~~last month~~ February 16th. Thirty-five people attended and \$10235 were raised. Closing is expected to occur ~~before near~~ the end of April. The money raised at the slide presentation had a matching challenge pledge that ~~consisted of \$4000 originally~~ came from \$44428.88 already donated

consisted of \$4000 originally pledged ~~pledged by John and Cathy Mersfelder by one donor~~ for the Eastern Field project, but it was not needed. Bob moved to place ~~the balance of the funds~~ this money left over from the Eastern Field project ~~the balance of the funds left over from the Eastern Field project~~ – after deducting an amount matching the funds raised at the slide show for the Gilman-Reich project – into the Stewardship Fund. Chele seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Education and Outreach** – TCC is co-sponsoring with Cook Library a presentation by Eric Masterson. TCC's share of the speaking fee is \$50. Chele moved to authorize expenditure of \$50 for the presentation. Eric seconded. Motion carried.

Rich asked if there was interest in setting up a tour of the Madison Lumber Mill. The mill can't do tours for large groups open to the public but they could do a tour for members of the Commission. Enough interest shown and Rich will ask the mill to arrange for a tour.

Rich reported that he had an exchange with NH-DES concerning the alleged Shoreland Protection violation on Chocorua Lake. DES is looking into it. There is a recorded view easement for that area but if the clearing hasn't been maintained over time then the landowner would lose the right to maintain the view clearing. At no time can a view clearing be enlarged. DES has not yet made a determination on the clearing activity at Chocorua Lake.

**Easement Monitoring** – Rich reported that he has sent the Alt reports to SPNHF. He has been in contact with Margaret Rieser; she and Rich will have that report finished soon.

**Managed Lands** – Fire tower view clearing: Nelson reported that, in consultation with the Selectmen, it is recommended that funding for the view clearing work should be included in the 2015 budget. The work will have to wait for one year.

**Adjourn** – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Eric seconded, motion carried 7:59 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*