

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – April 14, 2014

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson called meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Ned Beecher, Bob Seston, Chele Miller, Shannon Maes, Rich Gerard, and William Batchelder. Alternates present were Eric Dube, Charlie Townsend and John Watkins.

Also present: Jim Hidden, Selectman; Becca Boyden, Planning Board; and Sam Martin.

Approval of Minutes for 03/10/2014 – Batch moved to accept as written. Shannon seconded, motion carried.

Administrative –

Selectmen's Representative – Nelson welcomed Jim Hidden as the new Selectmen's representative.

Announcements – NH-DOT will be holding a second informational meeting concerning the planned bridge work on Route 113 in Whittier. April 22, 6:30 pm, Tamworth Town House.

Membership – The Administrative Assistant handed out copies of the 2014 TCC member roster.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – Bob reported that TCC has expended \$1386.86 so far this year, about 22% of annual budget. Bob moved to authorize payment of \$142.61 to reimburse Ned for deed recording fees. Chele seconded. Motion carried. Bob moved to authorize payment, to be taken out of the operating budget, of \$332.50 to Sager & Haskell for review of the Bearcamp Valley Farm conservation easement. Ned seconded. Motion carried.

Funds for Gilman-Reich conservation project – Discussed the intent of the the motion during the November 11, 2013 TCC meeting “to commit a total of \$10,000 from the Conservation Fund” for the project; specifically, does it include the \$2177.50 previously earmarked for the Gilman-Reich project by vote during the same meeting. Bob moved to confirm that the proper reading of the minutes is that the \$10,000 dollars includes the \$2177.50 previously earmarked for the Gilman-Reich project. Shannon seconded. Motion carried. Ned moved to authorize an additional \$2177.50 from the Conservation Fund to be added to the \$10,000 that has already been approved. Chele seconded. Motion carried. Bob will have a check for SPNHF cut that includes the \$12,177.50 plus all private donations for the project that were collected by TCC.

Representative Reports

Selectmen – Jim Hidden discussed the Dam Ice Cream Shop; it has been bought and a boundary line adjustment is being negotiated with the owners of the dam on the Chocorua River. The idea is to create a green space between the river and Route 16 and possibly a means to save the dam. Jim reported that, in an effort to create more office space without the expense of building an addition, the public meeting room will soon be moved to the Town House. This will be on a trial basis.

Planning Board – Becca Boyden reported on the following Planning Board activities: Extension of the power lines along Hollow Hill Road; boundary line adjustment on Mason Hill Road; boundary line adjustment and subdivision on Whittier Road; boundary line adjustment on Ambrose Bros land (former Chocorua Valley Lumber) to be conditional on reclamation work; planned work sessions to review the Scenic Road ordinance, the Tamworth Master Plan, and revisit wetland and groundwater ordinances.

Conservation Lands Review Committee

Gilman West – Reich Fundraising – Ned reported that the fundraising has been continuing and that TCC's part should be wrapping up soon. To date, SPNHF has a little over \$30,000 left to raise.

Alt Easement Consolidation – Christopher and Edward Alt have submitted a proposal to consolidate numerous conservation easements granted over the past 30+ years into a smaller number of easements. The rational is to make management and monitoring easier. The most restrictive easement language will apply to the consolidated easements. Alts will cover expenses although TCC may have the town attorney review the new easements. The Alts would like to have those easements held by SPNHF transferred to TCC. Discussed the easement provisions and how it would affect TCC's monitoring activities. Ned moved that TCC support the Alt easement consolidation plan. Bob seconded. Motion carried. The Alts will now present their proposal to SPNHF. Any final agreement between the three parties would ultimately need approval by the Selectmen.

Public Education and Outreach

Saving Special Places – John reported on his experience at the conference. He was particularly impressed with the keynote speaker, Peter Forbes, from the Center for Whole Communities.

Trails Brochure – Batch presented a new, improved map for the trails brochure. Commissioners approved it as being much more easy to read than the old map. Printing 1000 copies of the brochure will cost about \$223. Chele moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$300 for printing 1000 brochures. Ned seconded. Motion carried.

Co-sponsored Presentation -- The TCC/Cook Library sponsored presentation by Eric Masterson on birding in New Hampshire was well attended and enjoyed. Agreed that TCC would like to co-sponsor future events with the Cook Library.

Chocorua Lake Shoreline Protection – Rich reported that the landowner of the property where the cutting occurred along the shore of Chocorua Lake contacted him and reported that NH-DES was consulted prior to the cutting. Rich explained to him that TCC is not involved in the matter and is only seeking a clarification of interpretation and policy concerning the Shoreland Protection Act so that TCC can answer any questions or concerns that may be brought to the Commission. Shoreland Protection Act regulatory and enforcement powers lie entirely with NH-DES.

Easement Monitoring – Eric and Chele have accepted duties of coordinating easement monitoring. They are working on making sure all easements have assigned monitors.

Managed Lands – Time to check the trails for winter damage/blowdowns. Tell Nelson which trail you would like to inspect and report any maintenance needs. Another maintenance chore for this year will be fire tower painting.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Ned seconded, motion carried 9:14 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.