

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – June 16, 2014

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson called meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Ned Beecher, Shannon Maes, Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, and William Batchelder. Commissioners absent: Bob Seston. Alternates present were Eric Dube and John Watkins. Nelson appointed Eric to sit in Bob's vacant seat.

Also present: Jim Hidden, Selectman; Keith Ross, LandVest; Sue Stowbridge, HHWD Coordinator; and Sam Martin.

Approval of Minutes for 05/12/2014 – Batch moved to accept with correction of the date to May 5, 2014. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Bemis Trust Land Conservation Plans –

Keith Ross, agent for the Bemis Family Trust, explained the plans for protecting the family land in the Ossipee Mountains to make it financially tenable for the family to hold on to the land. The plans call for putting most of the land into a conservation easement, cease timber harvesting for a period, and sell carbon credits based on the growth of timber on the property. The intent is to have a solid plan drawn up by the end of this year. They have been talking with land trusts active in the Ossipee Mountain area and are interested in knowing how their plan might fit in with TCC land conservation projects.

Discussion among TCC members indicated that the Conservation Lands Review Committee is currently wrapping up the last two of a number of recent projects and plans to spend the next few months reviewing the status of land conservation in Tamworth and assessing what future projects, if any, they would advise TCC to pursue. TCC interest has been focused on wildlife connectivity between the Sandwich Range and the Ossipee Mountains rather than actually in the Ossipee Mountains but TCC would still be interested in learning more about the Bemis Trust plan when it is more solidified. Keith Ross was invited to return when the plans are formalized and it was suggested that he meet with the Conservation Lands Review Committee first.

Administrative –

Announcements – UNH-CE sent a complimentary copy of their history of dairy farming in New Hampshire. NH-DES has sent a request for further information to the applicant for a standard fill and dredge permit on Tax Map 420, Lot 10.

Household Hazardous Waste Day, 2014 – Sue Stowbridge reported on plans for this year's HHWD. Contractor's rates are expected to be about the same; total cost is expected to be about 3% higher than last year. Dates are July 26 and August 2; locations are Moultonborough and Center Ossipee. She needs two volunteers for doing the questionnaires during the events. Nelson agreed to volunteer; Sue said she could come up with one more volunteer. Discussed the initiative to institute a paint stewardship program, which NH does not have yet. Announcements for HHWD will be posted on the Tamworth Exchange and posters will be up soon at the recycling facility and other places.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – Bob was not present to give a full report. Nelson announced that, to date, \$2194 has been expended from the TCC annual budget. All funds earmarked for the Gilman-Reich project in the Conservation Fund have been forwarded to SPNHF.

Conservation Lands Review Committee

Gilman West – Reich – The Reich conservation easement has been drafted and copies were sent out for review by TCC members. The TCC is to hold an executory interest in the easement; SPNHF is the grantee. Ned moved to recommend to the Selectmen that they approve accepting executory interest in the proposed conservation easement for the Reich property, Tax Map 414, Lot 17. Eric seconded. Further discussion: Signs related to land conservation are allowed. Rick Sager has reviewed the easement. Motion carried. The Selectmen should be able to sign it at the Thursday meeting.

Alt Easement Consolidation – SPNHF staff have reviewed Chris Alt's easement proposal and have responded favorably to it. They will present it to their Board of Directors at the July meeting. If it is approved by SPNHF, it will then need to be reviewed by TCC and ultimately approved by the Selectmen.

Public Education and Outreach

Family Day Participation – Conflicting schedules would make it difficult to get something together for TCC participation this year. Agreed to save the clean water ideas for next year.

Other Outreach – Discussed other options such as outings and presentations. Agreed to work on a celebratory event in the fall for the recent land conservation work.

NTOA Workshop – Rich reported on attending the workshop on invasive forest species. The emerald ash borer is in New Hampshire. There are means of slowing the rate of spread but some experts are advising harvesting ash trees now before they become infested.

Easement Monitoring – Chele reported that she is still finalizing easement monitor assignments but it looks like she has volunteers lined up to cover all the easements. Eric has recovered the missing copies of the monitor's folders.

Managed Lands and Trails – Nelson reported on the trail maintenance work day held on May 31. TCC trails look to be in good shape. Mark Longley is looking into getting the Bearcamp Trail re-routed so that the river crossing is on the Route 113 bridge.

July Meeting? – Nelson and Ned will both be out of town on July 14. There may not be a need for a July TCC meeting. Unless Nelson hears otherwise by July 1, he will cancel the July TCC meeting.

Wetlands Concern – Ned received a call concerning a complaint about a possible wetlands violation near Sunnyside Lane off Turkey Street. Because the town no longer has any wetland regulations, it was agreed that TCC shouldn't be doing any site inspections. Public assistance should be limited to helping people understand what state regulations exist and helping them contact the proper state agency. Ned will call the concerned individual and direct him toward the proper state authorities.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Chele seconded, motion carried 8:41 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.