

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – November 10, 2014

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned Beecher called meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Commissioners present were William Batchelder, Chele Miller, Shannon Maes, Rich Gerard, Ned Beecher and Bob Seston. Commissioners absent: Nelson O'Bryan. Alternates present: John Watkins and Eric Dube. Ned appointed John to sit in the vacant seat.

Also present: David Bowles, representing Wonalancet Chapel; and Sam Martin.

Approval of Minutes for 10/13/2014 – Chele moved to accept the minutes amended 10/25/2014. Rich seconded. Motion carried. Batch abstained.

Wonalancet Chapel Expedited Wetlands Application – Dave Bowles explained that Wonalancet River has undermined a stump and root mass so that during times of high water a significant portion of the grove at Wonalancet Chapel is flooded. The proposal is to place some boulders along the line of the original bank and place sections of a tree trunk behind the boulders. The idea is that sediment accretion will build the bank back up and the river channel will remain in the original course. This should prevent or mitigate flooding in the grove. Dave needs the TCC to sign off (endorse) the plan before NH-DES will consider the application for an expedited review. Commissioners offered some suggestions after viewing the plans: planting woody vegetation after the bank is rejuvenated will help stabilize it; NH-DES may require a silt fence between the excavator and the river bank. Rich moved to endorse the application. Bob seconded. Motion carried. Chele abstained.

Announcements – Shannon announced that her class at the Community School is building and installing bat houses and bird houses for tree swallows and wood ducks.

Treasurer's Report/Financial – Bob reported that as of the latest statement, TCC has spent \$4807.03 of the operating budget; \$1377.97 remains. Received bill of \$47.75 for review of the Thompson conservation easement by Rick Sager. John moved to authorize payment. Chele seconded. Motion carried.

Selectmen's Report – Jim Hidden was not present but Ned announced that the Selectmen intend to have wi-fi internet access installed at the Town House.

Conservation Lands Review Committee

H. Thompson Easement – The conservation easement is completed. All parties are happy with the end result. Ned and Chele will work on sending a note of congratulations to Jane Witzel and invite her to attend the land conservation celebration scheduled for January 17.

Land Protection Celebration – CLRC will be meeting soon to work on plans for the celebration scheduled for January 17, 2015. (Note: See co-sponsored event below for further discussion on possible featured speakers.)

Public Education and Outreach

NHACC Annual Meeting – Rich and Bob attended and gave reports on the workshops they attended. Rich was elected to the NHACC Board of Directors.

Co-sponsored Event with Cook Library – Chele and Shannon each spoke with Will Abbott. Chele also spoke with Katie Callahan. Will offered on talk on either the spiritual value of conservation land or a build-out analysis for Tamworth. Katie could do a presentation of the revision of the NH Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan. Possibly one could be chosen for the

Cook Library event and the other could be chosen for the January 17 celebration. It would be good to have the Cook event occur first. Chele will set a date with Amy.

Tamworth 250th Celebration – Paul King has contacted Ned concerning TCC involvement in the celebration (Oct 2015– Oct 2016). Discussed possible events TCC could host. Shannon will invite John Wacker to the December TCC meeting so the Commission can learn more about the plans for this upcoming event.

Nature/Conservation Camp/Workshop Scholarships – Chele has spoken with Ken Hawkins (Brett School Principal) and John Marlow (teacher). They are interested and will get back to her with suggestions. Shannon suggested the Perkins Farm Explorers, run by Heidi Phail, as a program to which scholarships could be applied.

Easement Monitoring – There are still a few easements yet to have the annual monitoring inspection completed. The Bearcamp Valley Farm easements need monitoring folders made. The Administrative Assistant will do this.

Wetlands/Shoreland Protection Act – The new owner of Tax Map 203-70, the old Saunders/Cersosimo log yard between Rte 25 and the Bearcamp River, is planning on developing a campground with cottages on the site. Much of the lot is within the jurisdictional area of the NH Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. This regulatory provision has been inadvertently overlooked in the past. It would be wise to ensure that the landowner is aware of environmental regulations that affect the property. Ned will draft an informational letter to send to the landowner.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Chele seconded, motion carried 9:27 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.