

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – June 10, 2013
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned called meeting to order at 7:03pm. Commissioners present were Ned Beecher, Rich Gerard and Bob Seston.. Absent commissioners: William Batchelder (came late), Nelson O'Bryan and Chele Miller. Alternates present were Eric Dube, Shannon Maes, Charlie Townsend and John Watkins. Ned appointed Eric, Shannon, Charlie and John to sit in the vacant commissioner's chairs.

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

Approval of Minutes for 05/13/13 – Eric moved to accept with the correction in spelling of Sue Stowbridge's name. John seconded, motion carried.

William Batchelder arrived and took his chair. Alternate John Watkins relinquished his seat..

TCC-WODC co-sponsored event – Jack Waldron (WODC) explained the recent history of WODC co-sponsoring presentations with other local organizations and proposed that TCC be a co-sponsor for a presentation tentatively scheduled for October 19. The presenter will be Mary Holland. TCC's role as co-sponsor would include publicity; funding for expenses would be optional. In the most recent co-sponsored WODC-Historical Society event, expenses were split 50-50 and offset by passing the hat at the event. Shannon moved to co-sponsor the event with WODC, TCC funding contribution to be determined. Charlie seconded. Motion carried.

Administrative

Treasurer's Report – Bob reported that nothing was spent in the last month. About \$1,008 has been spent to date. Ned contributed the annual fee for the website. Batch submitted a bill for a mailbox (map box). Bob moved to authorize payment of the bill. Charlie seconded, motion carried with Batch abstaining. Bob has signed a cash receipt and petty cash policy form concerning a policy adopted by the Selectmen. For TCC, the policy will be applicable mainly to contributions to the Conservation Fund. Checks over 1500 dollars must be submitted at least once per week.

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters

Juniper Permit Application to NH-DES - Batch reported that there is less to this application than meets the eye. The intent is to repair a failed culvert on Washington Hill Road. As it now stands, the culvert is plugged and water is running down the side of the road. The proposed project is to replace the culvert and put in rip-rap. Batch did a site inspection and saw no problem with the proposal. John Watkins stated that the Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation approves of the proposed project. Shannon moved to reply to NH-DES that TCC has no objections to the proposed project. Bob seconded. Motion carried. Ned reported that Nelson intends to send the letter to DES.

Bryant-Kimball Roadway Maintenance Notification to NH-DES – The intent is to replace culverts with larger culverts and to maintain a drainage ditch. Ned handed the notification to the Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee (Batch) for familiarization with this type of notification. There is no action required by TCC.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Selectmen – Steve Gray reported that the Chocorua Village project is expected to be complete by foliage season. The project includes curbing at the 113-16 intersection and a realignment at the old Route 16 intersection.

Planning Board – Becca Boyden reported that the Planning Board is reviewing a boundary line adjustment on Hubbard property (Chinook Trail). Chocorua Valley Lumber: An excavation permit with a bond that wasn't posted expired June 1st. This permit and bond were for a part of the restoration work. The Planning Board is working on the subdivision regulations. In response to questions concerning the CVL permit and bond, Steve Gray said that the Selectman have levied a fine that is being held in abeyance; it will not be paid if the restoration work is completed on time. Ned asked if town attorney should be consulted. Steve replied that the attorney has been involved in dealing with the landowner concerning the bond.

Conservation Lands Review Committee

Cook: No further work has been done concerning this property.

Reich and Gilman West: CLRC is still waiting for SPNHF to start the fundraising campaign.

Floyd: The landowner recently approached Ned with a new offer concerning conservation easements on the two lots on south side of Route 25 (420/7, 64 ac. and 420/9, 45 ac.). He is willing to work with a per acre price that is reasonable: \$1500 per acre. CLRC Proposes: Sign purchase & sale agreement on lot 7; deposit \$10,000, which would be at risk if TCC fails to raise the remaining funds, and therefore should be funded by a private donor aware of the risk; raise another \$40,000 by end of 2013 and another \$45,000 by end of 2014, at which time TCC and Floyd would close on the lot 7 easement. No formal commitment on lot 9, but the intention is to work on that in 2015. It would be a standard conservation easement similar to those on the lots on the north side of Route 25. Questions: will the easement and held out portions be subdividable? This is something to be worked out. Will there be survey expenses? Yes. A decision on obtaining an appraisal is yet to be made; there will be no IRS requirements and the only people who need to be assured of the value are the private donors. Next steps if TCC gives the go-ahead: title search, meet with selectmen, draft P&S with Theresa Swanick, gather donation for \$10,000 deposit. Shannon moved to support the project and endorse the next steps. Rich seconded. Discussion: What's the chance to raise the \$10,000 deposit? Good chance in next two weeks. Motion carried.

Public Education and Outreach

Pollinator Talk – Shannon has agreed to give a presentation at the Lyceum on July 13, 3:00 pm. Nelson and Jamie at the Lyceum are working on the details. Shannon is working on promotional material. She will get this to Ned so Chris Clyne can get it in the Civic News.

Family Day Float – Shannon would like to see if she can get something going; maybe a theme of pollinators or invertebrates. Ned will get her in touch with the Mahoneys, who are proficient costume designers/makers and were involved last year.

Managed Lands and Trails

Further discussion on liability: TCC's scheduled inspection and maintenance of the Town's trails serves to hold the town harmless. Agreed that a disclaimer, "Use our trails at your own risk" would offer some further protection. Batch will put this on the maps. Ned will add it to the web site.

White Lake State Park Timber Cut: Dan DeHart tentatively said that he and/or Bob Hardy could give a presentation during the July TCC meeting. He will confirm it next week. This should be publicized as soon as it is confirmed.

Trail Maintenance: All trails have been inspected; all in good shape. There will be a trail work day later in the summer. New signs and map box are up at Black Spruce. There might be some bridge work to be done at Waterfowl Haven.

Other Business – Shannon sends a thank-you to Nelson and Chele for the trail scouting and work. Sue Stowbridge sent Ned a note about Hazardous Waste Day plans; she will provide updates later.

Gilman West Project: SPNHF has reached a compromise with the landowners. They will not strictly prohibit bear dogs on the property but neither will they promote the use of bear dogs nor grant permission for using bear dogs on the property if asked. SPNHF would like to see TCC's right to construct and maintain trails not be included in the Gilman West Easement. Commissioners agreed that these terms are acceptable.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Rich seconded, motion carried 8:55 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.