

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – July 8, 2013

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

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

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Mark Lane; Sam Martin; Sue Stowbridge, Household Hazardous Waste Day Coordinator; Dan DeHart and Bob Hardy, NH-DRED; Diana Lewis; Bruno Siniscalchi; and David Little.

Approval of Minutes for 06/10/13 – Batch moved to accept with the correction that, under Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee, Nelson was also present at the site inspection. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Planned Timber Harvest at White Lake State Park – Dan DeHart explained the State's basic approach to timber harvesting on State property. The Division of Forests and Lands manages all State reservations. One third of the acreage is managed for timber. The timber management is planned to not be adverse to the primary use of the individual reservation, which in the case of White Lake State Park is recreation. Bob Hardy described the specific plan for the proposed timber harvest. It will be north of the Lake and on both sides of the power line. The harvest will be divided into ten sections, which will get various treatments depending on the present condition. Harvest methods will include thinning, shelterwood cuts, group selection, patch cuts (2-5 acres) and two clear-cuts (a little over 5 acres each). Total area of the project is 84 acres. In response to questions, Bob stated that the job usually goes to the highest bidder unless the bidder has a history of forestry violations; he keeps a close watch on all harvest jobs. The access road will be from Turkey street and will need to be upgraded and then gated after the operation, as will the snowmobile road be gated where it crosses the access road. All cutting will be a minimum of 300' from the lake. The log yards (two) will be stumped, seeded and mulched; NH Fish and Game may keep the landings cleared to improve grassland habitat.

Administrative

Announcements

NH-DES Shoreland impact permit granted to Tamworth Distilling and Mercantile LLC for tearing down building and new construction, Tax map/lot #202/59.

NH-DES Wetland permit granted to Melissa Myers for brook trout habitat restoration, Tax map/lot #406/18.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day – Sue Stowbridge reported that notices for the collection day (August 3) have been posted in various places and media. She has two volunteers lined up; she needs two more.

Ayers Award – Chele presented to Chris Conrod a celebratory photograph taken at the Lakes Region Planning Commission annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Bob reported that 83.5% of the annual budget is left (available).

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters

There are no wetlands matters that need addressing at this time.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Selectmen – Steve Gray reported that the Selectmen had a presentation on easements at a recent meeting. Ned Beecher participated.

Planning Board – Becca could not make it but she sent a note that the Planning Board has been reviewing an application for additional antennas on a cell tower and a boundary line adjustment.

Conservation Lands Review Committee

Floyd: CLRC is acquiring an estimate of value for the parcels south of Route 25; they should have the estimate by August 31.

Reich and Gilman West: CLRC is waiting for SPNHF to begin fundraising. Diana Lewis said that the SPNHF board needs to make a decision concerning a prohibition of hunting with bear dogs on the property. They will not meet until August.

Public Education and Outreach

Family Day Float – Under the energy and direction of Shannon and with the able assistance of Chele, TCC's entry in the parade got a second place ribbon.

Pollinator Talk – Shannon's presentation at the Lyceum and co-sponsored by TCC will be on July 13, 3:00 pm.

TCC/WODC co-sponsored event – Mary Holland has been confirmed. She will be giving one of her widely acclaimed Naturally Curious presentations on October 19. Exact time and location to be announced.

Easement Monitoring – Rich reminded everyone that easement monitoring season is quickly approaching.

Chris Alt visited a recent CLRC meeting and asked if TCC would be receptive to a consolidation and simplification of the numerous Alt family easements. He has three general goals: (1) all easements under one grantee, (2) easement boundaries more closely aligned with property boundaries and (3) a family master trust to hold land under easement. This would all be Chris's effort at his cost. CLRC is receptive to the proposal. The Selectmen would have to approve any transfer of easement ownership (SPNHF to Tamworth). Charlie moved that TCC voice its receptivity to an Alt easement consolidation with an aim toward maintaining and enhancing conservation protection, and assuming that the Town of Tamworth will be willing to accept the SPNHF held easements. Chele seconded. Motion carried.

Managed Lands and Trails

Nelson will be setting up a meeting with Bob Hardy concerning trails and trail maintenance in Hemenway State Forest.

Batch reported that all the maps are updated with a “use at your own risk” disclaimer. He reported that Ned has done the same on the TCC web site. The basic trail brochure supply is running low, about 50 left. It would be good to get it updated before ordering more. The whole-town map could be improved and the Hikin' Heron challenge could be included. Nelson and Batch will work on this.

Rich asked about interpretive signs at Hemenway State Forest explaining the timber harvest done last year; didn't Bob Hardy say that he could do that? According to the TCC minutes of September 10, 2012, Mr. Hardy said there's a good possibility.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Chele seconded, motion carried 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.