

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – September 11, 2017

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Chele Miller, Rich Gerard, John Watkins and William Batchelder. Commissioners absent: Stephanie Doyle and Ned Beecher. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell. Nelson appointed Lucy to fill an empty seat.

Also present: Steve Gray, Selectman; Kit Morgan and Corey Lane, Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG); Tom Howard; David Little, Tamworth Planning Board..

Approval of Minutes for 08/14/2017 – Moved by Batch to accept the minutes as written. Chele seconded, motion carried. Nelson asked that it be noted in the minutes that, contrary to what was said at the meeting, the proposed bridge replacement on Rte 113 at Whittier would result in the entire bridge being closed for a period of time.

Administrative Announcements:

NHACC Annual Meeting – Nelson warned the Commission that the available workshops at the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting, scheduled for November 4, 2017, have yet to be posted on the website. The workshops currently listed are from last year.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative – Received another announcement of a workshop concerning SFI certification of state forests to be held in Lancaster on September 22.

Complete Forestry Notification – Received copy of DES acknowledgment of a forestry wetlands notification from NH Division of Forests and Lands for a scheduled timber harvest in Hemenway State Forest, Tax Map/Lot 406/48 & 52.

Green Mountain Conservation Group Groundwater Protection Program – Kit Morgan and Corey Lane described the work GMCG has been doing for the state and through a grant from the state to increase public awareness of state rules concerning groundwater protection. GMCG has formed an advisory committee and their work has included training sessions, education in schools, and brochures. Part of their agreement with the state is to identify businesses listed as “potential contamination sources”, and to contact these businesses every three years to provide a reminder and helpful information. GMCG is seeking help from the local conservation commissions in maintaining a list of “potential contamination sources” and performing the triennial contacts. Corey provided GMCG's most recent list for Tamworth and asked if the commissioners could review it for accuracy and completeness. Commissioners indicated a willingness to help and Nelson promised that he would get back to Corey with a description of what TCC would be able to take on. TCC will also add appropriate GMCG links on the TCC website.

Treasurer's Report – John reported no expenditures since the last meeting, which means no change in the annual budget balance. Received one invoice of \$900 from GMCG for water quality monitoring during the past year. Chele moved to authorize payment, Lucy seconded, motion carried.

Planning Board – David Little reported that the Planning Board recently approved one subdivision and one boundary line adjustment, and continued review of another subdivision application.

Selectmen – Steve Gray thanked TCC for the letter Nelson wrote concerning the state's change in classification of Irene's Way. He mentioned that he visited a Roads Committee meeting for

discussion concerning Irene's Way. Nelson reported that he checked the deed for Black Spruce Bog Ponds Natural Area and there is no language addressing right of access in the deed. The September 20 Selectmen's meeting will address Irene's Way and all involved parties have been invited.

Land Conservation

Community School – The School is still reviewing its options concerning placing additional easements on the property.

Other Possible Projects – Nelson reports that he has been informed of other land conservation projects where TCC may be invited to participate. There is nothing definite yet.

Wonalancet Area – Chele reported that two lots in Sandwich that connect the Tewksbury Brook Reserve and the Wakefield easement have been purchased by Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

Easement Monitoring – Three easement reports have been submitted so far.

Managed Lands and Trails

Waterfowl Haven – All the locust saplings have been cleared from the field by volunteer work. The field is ready to be mowed by Mark Streeter.

Hayfield Trust – One very full pick-up truck load of shingles and other debris has been removed from the property by volunteers. There is one more load remaining on the premises. Nelson requested reimbursement of \$40 for disposal fees at the Transfer Station. Chele moved to authorize payment, Lucy seconded, motion carried.

Page Hill – Neely Lanou inquired about view clearing at the top of Page Hill. TCC has yet to be able to get a response from the landowners. John will ask Alex Moot if he has a more direct contact method than the mailing address.

Other Business – Lucy offered the services of Dexter Harding and school kids affiliated with Tin Mountain Conservation Center to populate the kiosk at the intersection of Great Hill and Hemenway Roads. This is the kiosk that Tamworth Outing Club donated to TCC. The Commission is in favor of Dexter and the kids turning the kiosk into something useful. It was also suggested that Dick Fortin be asked to give TCC an update on the trout stream habitat improvement project.

Nelson reported that he attended Stephanie's mushroom walk on September 3. It was excellent; very informative. He suggested that TCC should offer more mushroom walks.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, John seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.