

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – August 15, 2012

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned called meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Commissioners present were Ned Beecher (Chair), Nelson O'Bryan, Rich Gerard, Chele Miller, and Margaret Rieser. Bob Seston and William Batchelder were absent.

Also present: Skip Nason, Planning Board, and Sam Martin (public)

Approval of Minutes for 07/09/2012 – Chele noted that in the Committee Reports section, under Conservation Lands Review Committee, “LRCF” should read “LRCT”. Margaret moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Administrative

Treasurer's Report – Margaret reported that the balance remaining in the annual budget is \$5075, 82% of budget. GMCG water quality testing invoice for \$900 has been received. Chele moved to authorize payment. Nelson seconded. Motion carried. Margaret will submit it to Anne Abear for payment.

Announcements – Received letter from Remick Farm thanking Ned for leading July bird walk at the Farm.

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee

Chocorua Valley Lumber, Lots 205/2 & 206/41 – Ned reviewed the outcome of this case. SUP review by Planning Board; it required three meetings. Two weeks ago (August 1, 2012) the Planning Board granted the SUP. Prior to the last meeting, TCC Wetlands committee reviewed a buffer waiver request that the applicant had been asked to add to the application. The Committee didn't discuss anything else concerning the SUP application, since the TCC had already made its recommendations on the SUP itself. The Committee recommended to the Planning Board that the buffer waiver be granted. Planning Board granted it, along with the SUP. Under the final SUP application, the total wetlands restoration increased by 14,000 feet in the final decision. The increase provides additional flood storage capacity. Selectmen have dealt with the issue of a fine for the wetlands violations; they have not yet made the arrangement public. In the end, the TCC's recommendations were followed, including the creation of formal town oversight, which was included in the Planning Board's decision to grant the SUP.

Juniper Land Trust, Lot 401/47; SUP application – The Wetlands & Subsurface Committee held a site walk; met with Jim Rines, agent for the applicant. Part of the lawn adjacent to the driveway is technically a wetland. Applicant proposes to replace the existing culvert with a larger culvert. The Committee recommended approval of the SUP application. The Planning Board hearing is coming up. There will be a site walk on August 22nd.

Committee/Coordinator Reports

Planning Board – Skip noted that Planning Board actions on the Chocorua Valley Lumber SUP had already been well covered but he added that, from his perspective, he thought that the outcome showed that the process works. It was a difficult application to review, but in the end the final decision addressed all concerns. He reported that the Planning Board will be working on simplifying the process for reviewing replacements and repairs on failed septic systems.

Conservation Lands Review Committee – “Eastern Field” (tax map lot 420/14) – Chele reported that the Committee has received pledges from private individuals amounting to \$37,755 out of \$40,000 needed to cover the purchase price for the conservation easement; still more money may be coming in. This means that costs covered by the Conservation Fund will be

significantly less than the \$10,000 authorized by TCC. Ned reported that a purchase and sale agreement was signed July 27th between himself and Bob Floyd. At Selectmen's meeting on July 2, the Board unanimously voted to sign a conservation easement for the Eastern Field, as long as it was acceptable to Town Counsel. Ned has already delivered a \$5000 non-refundable deposit to the landowner; this non-refundable deposit was donated by an anonymous private citizen; this arrangement was made to ensure that no public funds are at risk of being lost if the project does not go through. The closing is set for August 31.

The final conservation easement language needs to be reviewed and accepted by TCC, Town Counsel, and the Board of Selectmen. A title search has been done by Theresa Swanick; she still has a couple of things she wants to check out, but she doesn't foresee any title problems.

Ned led the meeting in a review of the proposed conservation easement, which he had provided to the Commission in advance of the meeting. Discussed and recommended by the Commission: The buffer along river should be reduced to 25 feet from top of bank. The 10-year clause for coming into full compliance with the easement should be kept. Liability insurance: as proposed, it can be waived by TCC and Selectmen; Selectmen require it as a condition for signing. In Section II.A.1, delete ephemeral pools. floodplain forest and culverts; add prime agricultural soil. In Section IV, remove paragraph E (Utilities) and allow for utilities to support agriculture and forestry in paragraph F. Change buffer name to "wildlife and surface water protection buffer". Nelson moved to approve the easement with the agreed upon changes. Margaret seconded. Motion carried. Ned will make the changes and submit the draft to the Town Attorney and Selectmen.

Public Education and Outreach – Chele delivered 15 Hikin' Heron forms to Moultonborough girl scouts, who will be attempting the HH challenge. 6 new completed HH challenge forms have been received and Chele is processing these forms.

Easement Monitoring – The unwieldy conservation easement monitoring/reporting system between TCC and SPNHF on the Alt easements was discussed. Ned and Rich will meet to discuss/devise a less cumbersome system and propose changes to SPNHF.

Household Hazardous Waste Day – Dates were July 28 and August 4. Chris Clyne reported a good turnout from Tamworth. The final statistics are yet to be worked out and reported.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Nelson moved, Rich seconded, motion carried 9:20 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.