

# Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – December 10, 2012

*Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting*

**Call to Order** – Ned called meeting to order at 7:07pm. Commissioners present were Ned Beecher (Chair), Nelson O'Bryan, Rich Gerard, Chele Miller., William Batchelder and Margaret Rieser. Bob Seston was absent. Alternate Charlie Townsend was present.

Also present: Bob Abraham, Selectman; Skip Nason, Planning Board.

**Approval of Minutes for 10/08/2012** – Nelson moved to accept; Rich seconded. Batch suggested a correction of the first sentence in Watkins Wetlands SUP Application to read: “Batch and Ned, among others, visited the site with Skip Nason and David Little.” Vote to accept minutes as amended carried, with Ned abstaining.

## **Administrative**

**Treasurer's Report; 2013 Annual Budget** – Margaret met with Selectmen to discuss the proposed TCC 2013 budget. She explained that the proposal calls for level funding but with redistribution in some line items. The meeting went smoothly. To date, TCC has spent \$4678; there is about \$1532 left. Bob Abraham reported that the Selectmen will vote on proposed budgets next Monday (December 17).

Ned designated Charlie Townsend to sit in for Bob Seston for this meeting.

**Announcements** – There is a Forest Laws workshop presented by UNH-CE scheduled for November 27 in Unity and November 29 in Barnstead. One complete forestry notification received from NHDES; Tax map 406-56. Received report from GMCG, documenting the water quality monitoring done in Tamworth during 2012. Total value of \$5,765, for which TCC contributes \$900.

## **Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters**

**Watkins Wetlands SUP Application** – The application was approved by the Planning Board two weeks ago. It was a short hearing; abutter's concerns were addressed. Ned forwarded TCC recommendation to grant the SUP and buffer waiver to the Planning Board prior to the hearing.

**Hemingway Wetland Application** – Skip N. reported that the applicant abandoned his original plans, withdrew his application, and is not applying for anything.

## **Committee/Coordinator Reports**

**Selectmen** – Bob Abraham reported that the Selectmen are working on the 2013 proposed budgets. Chocorua Valley Lumber is supposedly under P&S agreement with Ambrose. The Selectmen hear that the new owner intends to take care of violation conditions. There is some possibility that the mitigation work will get done more quickly with the new owner. Ned asked about monitoring, who would do it? Skip replied that it was left to town's discretion.

**Planning Board** – Skip explained that the abutter to the Watkins SUP application wanted some logs picked up as a condition for approval, but because the logs were not part of the proposed project, the Planning Board did not include log clean-up as a condition. Skip further explained that the applicant for the Homeyer subdivision filed suit to remove the no subdivision condition of the approval. On reconsideration, the Planning Board voted to remove the condition. Skip thinks justice was served.

## **Conservation Lands Review Committee**

**Floyd Conservation Easement** – Ned reported that Bob Floyd is still interested in putting conservation easements on the lots on the south side of Route 25. Ned is waiting for Bob to get back to him to set up a time for further discussion.

**Reich Easement** – Ned received a copy of the proposed easement; he forwarded copies to CLRC members. The easement is pretty standard. It includes public access, executory interest by Town, permits forestry, agriculture. The entire lot (~100 acres) is covered by the easement. Tom Howe has been working on it for 2 years. Purchase price for the easement is \$20,000, which is a significant bargain sale; \$58,000 is the expected total project cost. There is no good survey of

neighboring property. Tom was working with the understanding that the town would partner in some way. The Lakes Region arm of NH Charitable Foundation may be able to provide a \$5000 grant in short time. Chele: last time TCC talked, it was her understanding that the Commission felt the project was worth doing if the benefits to the Town justified the cost. Ned replied that the easement would restrict the possibility of development on a Class 6 town road. Rich advised that the survey should be put out to bid. Bob Abraham advised that the bid process should be done before making any agreements with SPNHF. General agreement to put survey out to bid ASAP. Deed record reference and tax map/lot numbers should be included with the bid. Nelson moved to put the survey out to bid and once TCC receives bids, to confer with SPNHF. Timing was discussed and it was agreed that TCC should have some bids to review in the next two weeks. Margaret asked at what point would we look at the grant funding? The sooner the better; Ned will work on the bid process; Nelson agreed to look into the grant. Chele seconded Nelson's motion. Ned made the argument that achieving this easement in partnership with SPNHF would be a considerable deal for the town with minimum effort. Chele: TCC will not have to monitor it, which is a plus. Margaret: concerned about naming amount before the bids are in. Vote: Motion to put the survey out to bid and once TCC receives bids, to confer with SPNHF carried. Further discussion indicated a general agreement that TCC wants to proceed with the project.

**Easement Monitoring** – Margaret suggested that TCC should make an effort to communicate with the trust that holds the Cave property because Joan, the only resident on the property and the original grantor of the easement, is recently deceased. Margaret will include a cover letter when she sends the 2012 monitoring report to the trust. Good progress is being made in getting all easements monitored. Ned, Rich and the administrative assistant will meet to discuss the Alt easements. Baseline documentation for Bearcamp Valley Farm easements will be completed by December 19.

#### **Managed Lands and Trails**

**Trail Conditions** – Bob Seston checked Waterfowl Haven, Margaret walked around Black Spruce, both trail systems looking good. Nelson talked with Erik Nelson, Parks Dept, about the signs at White Lake/Black Spruce; he'll check to be sure Erik has the proper wording. It was noted with deep appreciation that Sheldon Perry took out a blowdown that fell on the Swift River bridge. Ned suggested that a spring task could be to take out a dead tree near the bridge.

**Big Pines Sign** -- John Roberts put the repaired and refurbished sign up last Friday. Chele will write thank you letter(s) to John, Bob and Dan. Ed parsons wrote an article on Hemenway trails that recently appeared in the Conway Daily Sun.

**Adjourn** – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Margaret moved, Batch seconded, motion carried 8:23 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*