

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – May 9, 2011

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Ned called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Members present were Ned Beecher, Nelson O'Bryan, Bob Seston, Rich Gerard, Chele Miller, Bill Batchelder, Margaret Rieser, Charlie Townsend (Alternate; not voting)

Also present: John Roberts (Selectman), Sam Sayers (Energy Commission)

Public Hearing – Proposal to purchase Conservation Easement on Map 420/Lot 13

Ned's introduction to hearing: The Town will take some property interest, for which the TCC practice is to hold a public hearing. The proposal is to expend \$15,000 from the Conservation Fund for the purchase of this conservation easement from the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. Once the hearing is closed, the Conservation Commission will further discuss and vote on the matter. Ned described the lot and location. Closing is expected to be later this month, easement signed the same day. (1) Shall the town accept the easement and (2) should TCC expend 15,000 from Conservation Fund (currently about \$70,000).

Jack Waldron: What's the assessed value of the lot? Answer: \$95,000. Jack: Will there be any further funds placed in the Stewardship Fund? Answer: Money is occasionally added but no specific plans for this property. Jack questioned the adequacy of a \$5000 stewardship fund. Answer: If the stewardship fund is exhausted, other Conservation Fund monies are available. Margaret stated that Tamworth's one of few towns in NH with any stewardship fund. Jack: Would the town have any financial liability for legal action beyond the Conservation Fund? Answer: Hard question to answer; there could be a time when the Selectmen were asked to authorize expenditures from the General Fund. Jack: Any plans for specific improvements for public access? Answer: Town has the right to create trails and designate or improve a small parking area. Jack: Would current farming practices affect public access? Answer: Some; the Grantor has a reserved right to post land where public access is incompatible with farming or forestry management practices, but wildlife buffer areas will limit management activities along river and eastern boundary.

Charlotte Cooper: What's the process now? Answer: If approved here tonight, it will go to Selectmen for approval, then finalize deeds and easements; closing later this month (May).

There being no other public comments or questions, Ned closed the hearing at 7:25 pm.

Discussion: Ned requested two votes: one for accepting the easement and one for authorizing the expenditure of \$15,000. Nelson moved that the commission accept the proposed conservation easement for Tax map lot 420/13. Margaret seconded. Nelson: who would pay for fencing? Answer: Not TCC; all management activities would be the responsibility of the Grantor. It was clarified that the easement does not allow for motorized vehicles except for forestry/agriculture. Rich: any restrictions unique? Answer: the wildlife buffer. Vote: motion carried unanimously. Margaret moved to authorize expenditure of \$15,000 for the purchase of the proposed conservation easement on Tax map lot 420/13. Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – 04/11/2011 TCC meeting. Nelson moved, Chele seconded. Motion carried.

Brett School Energy Fair

Sam Sayers reported on the Energy Fair this past Saturday. There was one class-wide project and the 4th and 5th graders did individual projects. Decent turnout, kids are learning about sustainability and renewable resources. There is a Energy Commission meeting next Monday and they are interested in any recommendations for future events. Sam thanked the TCC for its involvement and Ned commended Sam and the Energy Commission for its work.

Administrative

Treasurer's Report – Margaret reported NHACC dues and payment for water testing (GMCG) were the expenditures for the past month. It was noted that the professional services line item is already over budget; any further expenses in that area will have to come from some other line item.

Membership – The Administrative Assistant passed out updated member rosters to be included in the individual handbooks. New handbooks were delivered to new members.

Announcements – Latest edition of SPNHF Forest Notes is available for reading; Copy of NH-DES compost permit was received for Letarte farm (Tax Map 413/17).

Wetlands and Sub-surface Committee: Wetlands Matters – Batch/Ned

Prime Wetlands status of SB 19 – still in house committee; due to be out of committee later this month.

New Dredge and Fill applications – One for town, Gilman Valley Road, place rip-rap at bridge abutment (Stony Brook). No Town Special Use Permit needed. One for Myers (Tax Map 406/18), trout habitat improvement, year two of project. Planning Board will accept this application at their next meeting and pass it to TCC for review.

Managed Lands and Trails Committee - Nelson

Report on spring maintenance – established system of monitoring trails; most now have adopters. Blowdowns were removed from most areas. Waterfowl Haven still needs to be looked at. Blazing was added where needed. Signage needed on Remick Trail and the Tower trails had a couple of signs stolen over the winter. Minor repair made on Jackman Pond bridge (west end). Painting is needed on Swift River Bridge treadway and steps on fire tower.

Other Committee/Coordinator Reports

Selectmen – Greg Howard (wetlands scientist) was hired by Selectmen to review activity at CMI (Tax Map 208/23, 24, 28); concern about potential wetlands violation.

Planning Board – Skip Nason is away; no news.

Public Education and Outreach – Family Day activities? Idea is to have a float. Theme possibilities: Conservation Lands Provide, Promote awareness of trails, hiking or general TCC patch; use heron logo with “TCC”. Chele and Ned will check out different sources for making

patches. Margaret will design card/procedure for earning hiking patch by hiking all the town/TCC trails.

Ordinance Review Committee – Ned – meeting last Monday (05/02); might be the second to last meeting, wrap up soon and send report to appropriate boards.

Landfill monitoring scheduled for May – Nelson and Batch will be doing it May 17th or 18th.

Easement Monitoring – Rich-- went to workshop on Sat (05/07). NH-OEP sponsored it. Second generation owners and paperwork were two issues stressed.

Perkins boundary – vote on up to ~\$400 expenditure for placing new corner markers, as needed, at NW corner. Estimate submitted by Paul King. Margaret moved to expend up to \$450 from stewardship fund for surveying work by Paul King. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Mabel Evans/Hayfield boundary – still pursuing, in progress

Rhodes boundary (Now called Bryant Mill) – Batch found four of eight rebars; pink ribbon at other spots but no rebars. some could have been under water.

Bird Walks update – Ned expressed appreciation to Tim Brown for filling in as leader and helping out on other walks. Each walk has had 3 – 8 people on it.

Other Business

Margaret and Nelson will be going to SPNHF stewardship monitoring workshop, Geneva Point.

Bob announced that CLCF is working on land management near Monkey Trunks.

Rich asked about the Meeting House lot (town-owned land at corner of Cleveland Hill and Hollow Hill Roads). John Roberts mentioned that at one point there was talk of using it as a cemetery extension. Bearcamp Trackers will be doing a hike on it and adjacent conservation land Saturday, May 14, 8:45 am.

Adjourn Batch moved and Margaret seconded; meeting adjourned 8:53 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant