

## **Tamworth Conservation Commission**

Draft Minutes – June 13, 2011

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

**Call to Order** – Ned called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Members present were Ned Beecher, Nelson O'Bryan, Bob Seston, Rich Gerard, Chele Miller, Margaret Rieser, Charlie Townsend (Alternate; sat in for Bill Batchelder until Batch arrived at 7:26, just before Wetlands and Sub-surface discussion)

Also present: Skip Nason (Planning Board)

### **Administrative**

**Treasurer's Report** – \$1125 expended for dues, subscriptions and meetings; \$900 should be switched to water quality monitoring line in the budget, which is where it belongs (payment to support GMCG's water quality monitoring in Tamworth); professional fees \$1397.50; received \$300 in contributions to offset professional services required for closing on the Western Field project, this money went into Conservation Fund. There is a balance of \$2776.69 remaining of the 2011 budget.

**Bill to be paid** – from Theresa Swanick for Western Field Cons. Easement review (\$35.00) needs to be allocated to another line; it was suggested to be put in "signs and boxes". Ned moved, Margaret seconded, motion carried. Chele suggested keeping track of expenditures that had to be put into a different line item than they normally would, for budgeting purposes for next year. Agreed.

**Announcements:** Chocorua Lake Cons. Foundation is working toward meeting Land Trust standards, updating easement work. They have sent out a request for proposals for contracting work. Considering purchasing old "Chocolate Moose" property.

There will be a June 23 groundwater protection ordinance implementation workshop. Also: BMP workshops in fall sponsored by GMCG-UNH-CE. Report from GMCG on water quality testing has been received. GMCG sent letter of thanks for TCC's annual contribution. Household Hazardous Waste Day is Aug 6 at Center Ossipee and Moultonborough; Chris Clyne is looking for one or two more volunteers to help that day. WODC summer program being offered regarding, Wonalcet, Weeks and the White Mountains – August 7.

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

**Prime Wetlands** – status of SB 19 – implication for local prime wetlands. This bill passed Senate; now it is stuck in House committee until next year. Even if passed, would not change anything in Tamworth, as the bill is now written.

TCC action – should TCC re-evaluate the prime wetlands in town? Should some be re-delineated? Follow-up on Grace family's predicament. Wetland scientist cost money. Margaret: How about putting that to article at town meeting. Ned: would there be a grant available? Should we form a committee? Should it be tied in with housekeeping changes to the Wetlands Conservation Ordinance? Should we have a wetlands scientist at July meeting to give us ideas of work, cost, etc. Agreed: Rich will ask Barry Keith if he could come July 11 or Aug 8. Nelson suggested having a list of questions prepared beforehand. Everyone send questions to Ned and Chris.

**Chocorua Valley Lumber** –sale of already excavated gravel has now been approved by Selectmen because of progress in remediation of excavation and wetlands violations. DES

applications for alteration of terrain and wetlands impacts likely to be filed next month (July). Town special use permit will be required and Selectmen continue to enforce locally.

**New Dredge and Fill application** – Map 406/Lot 18 – trout habitat restoration, phase 2 (PB Hearing 6/29, 7 pm) – Myers is owner. Margaret recused herself from deliberation on this application. 500' of new trout habitat restoration is to be added in Sanborn Brook upstream and downstream of the 1000' completed last year. PB public hearing will be on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Batch has been out to look at the site for the Wetlands Committee. The first work from last year looks terrific. Skip agrees. Nelson moved to advise planning board to approve an SUP for this second phase of the project; Chele seconded. Nelson asked if there was any negative aspect to this project. None noted. Batch said that he noted new beaver activity ¼ mile downstream, but added that it would not back up water far enough to affect the project area. Motion carried.

**Potential wetlands problem** – Selectman contracted with Greg Howard, wetland scientist, to review Club Motorsports property in response to residents' complaint about possible violation of local wetlands ordinance. Mr. Howard's report will be available tomorrow at the town office for public inspection (06/14). The Selectmen will be discussing this matter at their meeting on Thursday.

### **Committee/Coordinator Reports**

**Planning Board** – Skip: last meeting of the Planning Board was May 25. Chocorua Valley Lumber was one topic at the meeting. Skip noted that the LRPC annual meeting is the 27<sup>th</sup> of June at Castle in the Clouds, \$25/person. Planning Board has a June 29<sup>th</sup> work session.

**Public Education and Outreach** – July 4 plans – Hikin' Heron program – Chele & Margaret: Charlie submitted 3 possibilities for badge/patch. Chele has submitted the write-up for the challenge to the Tamworth Civic News. Margaret worked up the challenge rules and form. For parade, the TCC will have forms and a big version of the patch; we will hand out the challenge form as we hike in the parade. The patch will be 2-1/2"; cost is \$2 each for order of 100. Ned suggests that the form be on a half-sheet with a fold line for mailing it to the TCC, with TCC address on one side when folded. Chele and Margaret will re-engineer with the help from administrative assistant. Ned suggests putting these forms in trails mailboxes; should also put it on website and make sure all maps and the brochure are on the website for downloading. Margaret moved, Nelson seconded to expend \$200 for the patches. Motion carried. For Parade: Meet at Ned's at 9 am on July 4th to dress like herons for the parade. Ned, Chele, and Margaret are in; others are welcome and encouraged to join.

**Landfill monitoring** – Nelson & Batch – done in May; a lot of methane was measured for a change, but only directly over filled area; could be due to the moist spring.

**Easement Monitoring** – Rich reported on meeting with Steve Walker of the state Office of Energy and Planning; they went to the Aspinall property to meet with the new owner, Norman Cloutier, who chose not to take a copy from Steve of the "new owner" packet, saying he knows enough about the easement. Rich has added some items to the easement monitoring spreadsheet at Steve's suggestion. They also looked at Perkins/TCS easement, and Steve has set September 23<sup>rd</sup> as a deadline for resolving the easement infringement at the NW side of the Community School boundary. Ned noted that we have been working on this, and Paul King has been has the go-ahead to survey and set markers on the line. Ned reminded Paul by email today to get it done soon. Ned, Nelson, and/or Rich will be there with Paul to blaze the line clearly at the same time.

**Managed Lands and Trails** – Cleveland Hill Road town property – Rich noted it would be

possible to do a small-scale good forest management practices demonstration project on this property. Minimal commercial value, but it would cover timber stand improvement work needed. Agreed by Commission: Rich will draft a letter to selectmen with this recommendation.

Page Hill Trail update – Ned: erosion work done last fall is holding up; steeper places still have gullies but they are not getting worse. Waterbars should be cleaned; Ned will try to get to it.

Several of our trails have wet areas needing attention: Remick, Big Pines. Bog bridges needed at Big Pines - small patches of mucky areas before bridge.

Bridge and Fire Tower steps painting – Steps are highest priority; paint may not have lasted because the wood might be pressure treated; do towards end of summer.

**Bird Walks** –successful season; Tamworth Birdathon/Bloomathon identified a record 119 birds, 77 blooms.

**CLRC** – Western Field/Hertel (420/13) Conservation Easement was signed/completed the first week of June, with all three Selectmen and Ned signing it. LRCT are now the owners of the property, while TCC holds easement. Ned talked with V. Hertel about keeping the Sandwich portion of the field available as pasture. Hertel is agreeable to doing that as long as he owns it. He is willing to discuss conservation options on that piece.

**Other Business** – none

**Adjournment** – Margaret moved, Chele seconded. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:24 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*