

## **Tamworth Conservation Commission**

Draft Minutes – March 9, 2020

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

**Call to Order** – Kit Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioners present were William Batchelder, Dexter Harding, Kit Morgan and Charlie Townsend. Commissioners absent: Stephanie Doyle, Chele Miller and Nelson O'Bryan. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell, Eric Dube and Ned Beecher. Kit assigned Lucy and Eric and Ned to fill the vacant seats.

Also Present, Jim Hoenscheid and Sam Martin, Club Motorsports; and Branden Walden, Gove Environmental Services.

**Approval of Minutes for 02/10/2020** – Dexter moved to accept minutes as written. Charlie seconded, motion carried. Ned and Eric abstained.

### **Administrative/Announcements –**

Received a copy of NH-DES Notice of Acceptance of Shoreland Permit Application for Tax Map/Lot 216/31. [There should have been a copy of the application submitted to the town by the applicant.]

The wood frogs are singing in Pennsylvania and southern Connecticut.

Dexter announced that he expects to be elected to the School Board and, if he is, he will need to resign from the Commission. He graciously offered to continue participating in projects close to his skills and interests.

**Financial** – We'll know where we stand after the Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 11.

### **Club Motorsports - Expedited Dredge and Fill Application**

Jim Hoenscheid explained the purpose and engineering techniques for the proposed extension of one culvert. By building a short connector road parallel to the track, access between paddocks and traffic safety will be improved. Impacts to the brook were minimized by using a retaining wall and a stone-lined fill slope. Brandon Walden answered questions concerning wetland delineation and watershed area. It was noted that the original DES approval included this impact but the time limit for the approval has expired. Charlie moved to sign off on the application, Eric seconded, motion carried. Kit signed all copies of the application and DES will expedite the application review.

**Planning Board** – Eric reported that Sheldon Perry and Nelson agreed to set the date for a joint Planning Board – Conservation Commission meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The purpose is to discuss what should be done concerning the lack of a Groundwater Protection Ordinance in Tamworth.

### **Conservation Easements/Land Protection**

**Bearcamp Valley Farm** – Nelson met with the potential buyers and answered their questions about the easement. They want to have a working farm and raise livestock. They are interested in the Lakes Region Conservation Trust fields on the north side of Route 25. If they buy the farm, it would be good to act as advocates for them keeping the LRCT fields in active agriculture. It was also suggested that the Community School fields could be an option depending on availability.

**Payne Easement** – Nelson has not yet received a completed survey from Paul King. Still waiting.

### **Public Education and Outreach**

**Summer Camp** – Lucy attended the Brett School meeting for planning a summer program. They are still in very early stages. Lucy made suggestions for activities (salamander census, interpretive trail improvement at Remick Natural Area). But the school is still working on funding and not ready for setting up a schedule. Lucy will stay in touch with them.

**Vernal Pools** – Lucy reported that Lynne Flaccus has a health issue and may not be ready for the March 28 Chocorua Lake Conservancy vernal pool walk. Chris or Ned could do it if necessary but March is usually too early to see much activity or find egg masses. Lucy will ask Lynn if she could postpone the walk until mid-April.

**Wednesday Bird Walks** – Ned reported that the bird walks will start on April 22, 7:00 am. That date is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. In observance of that, Ned will host a 6 am greeting of the sunrise at the fire tower.

**Easement Monitoring** – It's never too early to monitor the easements. Amanda Hollenbeck is leaving NH-OSI so reports to the Conservation Land Stewardship Program should be sent to Steve Walker for now.

**Wetlands – Great Hill Road/Swift River Erosion Fiasco** – Kit called NH-DES to check on the status because the landowner was supposed to have a remediation plan in by January 15. DES reported that temporary erosion control devices have been installed and the owner was given an extension to the end of March to submit the plan. An engineer has been hired.

**Managed Lands and Trails** – Trail Brochures – Lucy and Batch passed around copies of their first draft for an updated trails brochure. Dexter passed out a bullet list format of trail descriptions if the commission wants to further simplify the individual trail sections. Discussed whether or not to close the Easy Walker interpretive trail at Big Pines and concentrate on improving/updating the interpretive trails at Remick Natural Area. Nelson has ground-truthed the Jackman Pond Trails. Kit and Ned will pick a day to ground-truth the Black Spruce trails. Discussed the slippery section of the Betty Steel Loop where the trail slabs up the steep bank along the river. Could possibly improve the trail surface, relocate the trail to the terrace above the bank, or both.

Agreed all would review the draft brochure and think about other options raised and further discuss at next meeting.

**Other Business –**

Charlie asked for clarification of Conservation Fund expenditures so he would be ready for any questions that might arise at the town meeting. Expenditures included purchasing the Community School property (2+ acres) and costs associated with the purchase.

Ned suggested that the Earth Day observance at the fire tower be announced at the town meeting. Agreed to ask Chris Canfield to announce. Alternative is to make the announcement during the last article (Other Business).

**Adjourn** – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Batch moved, Eric seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

*Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.*