

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – July 13, 2020
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Kit Morgan, Stephanie Doyle, Chele Miller and Charlie Townsend. Commissioners absent: William Batchelder. Alternates present: Eric Dube. Nelson assigned Eric to fill the vacant seat.
Also Present, Melanie Streeter, Board of Selectmen.

Approval of Minutes for 03/09/2020 – Charlie moved to accept minutes as written. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Administrative/Announcements – Nelson reminded those present that on June 1st he sent out notes on TCC related activities up to that point in time. They will be reviewed later in the meeting.

Financial – Charlie reported that the latest Conservation Fund statement showed a balance of \$74,597. Since then, two donations have been added to the fund: \$100 from Rockhoppers and \$30 from Steve and Beth Zimmer. Charlie moved to give after-the-fact approval for payment of \$4395, paid out of the Conservation Fund, to Paul King for the survey of the Payne lot; and payment of \$280.50 for professional services and \$60 for three new trail signs, from the annual budget funds. Eric seconded, motion carried. Charlie moved to authorize payment to reimburse the sum of \$47.95 to Lucy Gatchell for trail brochure and map expenses. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Nelson reported that Ned Beecher paid the annual website and email bill and he declined reimbursement. Thank you, Ned! Melanie explained that the project of getting all town activities on the same website (tamworthnh.org) is on the back burner due to losing staff in the Selectmen's office but it will be accomplished at a later time. She also discussed the pros and cons of town agencies having a presence on social media.

Board of Selectmen – Melanie reported that the only TCC related business taken up by the Selectmen concerns a Memorandum of Understanding concerning maintenance and liability for the fire tower. This will be discussed under Managed Lands in the agenda.

Planning Board – Eric reported that the number of applications have been down the past few months. There is one excavation application for a parcel off of Maple Street and just north of White Lake Estates. Nelson will attend the Planning Board review of the application, which will likely be next week.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection – Payne Easement – The survey is done, the deed has been reviewed and approved with minor changes by the Town attorney. All it needs is to be accepted and signed by the Board of Selectmen. Eric moved to recommend that the Selectmen accept the conservation easement deed. Stephanie seconded, motion carried. Nelson will ask to be put on the agenda for next week's Select Board meeting. Chele will attend the meeting and notarize the signing.

Public Education and Outreach

Hikin' Herons – Stephanie reported that more patches are needed, about 200 would be advisable. Eric moved to authorize spending up to \$300 for the purchase of new patches. Stephanie seconded, motion carried. Nelson suggested that Stephanie could get a quote from the company that Wonalancet Out Door Club uses; the delivery time might be quicker.

Library Video – The Cook Memorial Library invited TCC to produce a video about hiking opportunities on town land. Chele, Stephanie, Ned and Nelson put together the video and it can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5I2XF02ESII>

June Notes – The following is a copy of the informational notes that Nelson emailed to commissioners on June 1st. Text in brackets is further elaboration by Nelson at this meeting.

1. The wetlands permit application that CMI presented at the March meeting has been approved.
2. The Shannons of 220 Great Hill Road have sent to NHDES a restoration plan for dealing with the erosion problem on the bank of the Swift River. NHDES has accepted their plan which has a completion date of September 15, 2021. TCC does not have a copy of the restoration plan which was drawn up by HEB Engineers.
3. Invoices are being paid if they are bills which the Commission expects to receive. These will need an after-the-fact approval at our next meeting.

4. The conservation easement deed for the portion of Grace Payne's property which she wishes to protect was been written and reviewed by Matthew Serge, Tamworth's attorney. The deed used the template that the Commission has used in the last few years. There is a small amount of work yet to be done on the survey map. Once that is completed, then deed and map will need to be reviewed by the Commission and a recommendation made to the Board of Selectmen.
5. The Commissions email service with Network Solutions was renewed for two year by Ned Beecher who has declined to be reimbursed. Thanks for the contribution, Ned.
6. TCC received a copy of a NHDES letter sent to Richard Bogart concerning damage to wetlands by logging on lots 201/59 and 410/120. (No permit was issued for this work.) The letter specifies that a restoration plan be submitted by June 1, 2020. *[Nelson reported that he has not received any further information.]*
7. TCC has received two donations in recent months. One was from Rockhoppers for \$100 who had planned to use some of the Black Spruce trails for one of their races which had to be canceled. The other donation was from Steve and Beth Zimmer of Meredith who sent in with their request for Hikin' Herons patches.
8. Volunteers have started doing the annual maintenance on the Tamworth Hiking trails. Some more help could be used; if interested, contact Nelson.
9. Chris Conrod made three new signs for the Jackman Pond trail.
10. Speaking of volunteers, those of you do easement monitoring might wish to get an early start on this year's inspections. If you need the easement folder, please let Nelson know which one you need and he will arrange to get it from the Town Office and deliver it to you.

Wetlands – Pine Tree Power – There is still no definite word concerning what future plans Pine Tree Power has for disposing of cooling water. Their application for dumping the water on-site was withdrawn earlier this year. Kit reported that there is little NH-DES can do because New Hampshire lacks laws that prohibit the dumping of saltwater. Local groundwater protection ordinances are an option but existing non-conforming activities might be grandfathered.

Managed Lands and Trails

Trail Brochures – The revision of the TCC trails brochure has be completed by Lucy and Batch. Each map box now has a laminated map on a back board, which will be available for viewing if the map box is empty.

Memorandum of Understanding – The Selectmen have written up a MOU listing the maintenance and liability responsibilities for the three entities involved with the fire tower on Great Hill. These are the TCC as managers of the tower, and the Fire Department and Grasshopper Wireless as entities that have equipment installed on the tower. Kit moved to accept the MOU. Eric seconded, motion carried.

Covid Posters – Posters that state proper social distancing behavior when hiking on the trails have been put up at trailheads on Town land.

Field Mowing – Nelson announced that 2020 is the year for doing the biannual mowing of the Bearcamp Field. He suggested that the Waterfowl Haven field be mowed on an annual basis because of the rapid regeneration of black locust sprouts. Kit moved to hire Mark Streeter to mow the Bearcamp and Waterfowl Haven fields. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Page Hill Trail and Ledges – The landowners are having some logging done on the property. After the logging is completed, Nelson will schedule an inspection of the trails and ledges to see if there is any work TCC needs to do.

Other Business

Easement Monitoring – Stephanie pointed out that easement monitoring had been skipped over on the agenda. Chele reported that she had received a letter and new monitoring manual from NH-Conservation Land Stewardship Program. They may be of interest to those monitoring TCC easements. The Administrative Assistant will email copies of the letter and manual to easement monitors. The Admin Asst. will use the manual for making revisions to the TCC monitoring report forms.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Eric moved, Kit seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.