

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – July 12, 2021, Tamworth Town Office
Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Kit Morgan, Chele Miller, Jeremy Phillips, and Anneliese Smith. Commissioners absent: Charlie Townsend and Stephanie Doyle. Alternates present: William Batchelder, Lucy Gatchell and Eric Dube. Alternates absent: Ned Beecher. Nelson designated Lucy and Eric to fill the empty seats.

Also present: Randall Dearborn, Planning Board; Melanie Streeter, Select Board; Catherine Dufault, Carroll County Conservation District Manager; Bob Hardy, forester for Hemenway State Forest; Grant Prillaman; Andrea Kennett; Richard Doucette; Gabrielle Watson; Henry Hodgman.

Approval of Minutes for 6/14/2021 – Batch noted that Lucy was listed as present and absent. Lucy said she was present. Anneliese moved to accept the corrected minutes. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Hemenway State Forest Timber Harvest – Bob Hardy presented plans for a timber harvest on the north side of Great Hill Road and west of Duck Pond. It will be mostly first or second (prep or seed) shelterwood cuts. The remaining 14 acres in the timbersale plan is mature forest in decline. Seven acres of that section will be clearcut during this phase and the other half is scheduled to be clearcut during the next phase (in 20 years+/-). The harvest will be done this year and/or next year, starting no earlier than August 15. There will be buffers around the pond and wetlands. Bob took comments and answered questions from meeting attendees. Those with concerns about the planned timber sale should contact the Commissioner at the NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources: Sarah L. Stewart, 603-271-2411, <sarah.stewart@dncr.nh.gov>. Those interested in getting a copy of Bob's powerpoint presentation can email <info@tamworthconservationcommission.org>.

Administrative and Announcements

Received copy of letter and flyer for the 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day from Sue Stowbridge. The Moultonborough and Ossipee collection stations will be open on August 7. Details at <<https://www.lakesrpc.org/serviceshhw.asp>>.

Received copy of letter from NH-DNCR announcing that the two buildings below the fire tower in Hemenway State Forest will be demolished.

Financial – Nelson reported that the two expenditures that had been approved earlier, the summer camp scholarships and the reimbursement to Ned for website expenses, have been processed.

Planning Board – Randall reported that at the last meeting one subdivision was approved and two were continued for further review. The Planning Board has resumed in-person meetings at the Town Office.

Selectboard – Melanie reported that the company proposing to build a solar array on town property has withdrawn their proposal. If all goes well, Tamworth will have a new Recreation Director soon.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Lunt Ledge – Nelson reported that Scott Aspinall has been getting an enthusiastic response from property owners around Lunt Ledge. The current goal is to get positive commitment from key landowners in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding

Bearcamp Valley Farm Easement – Nelson reported that he met with the new owner of the farm, at the owner's request, to review the easement and answer questions. The owner is intent on managing the farm in accordance with the easement.

Public Education & Outreach

SPARCnet Salamander Census – Chris Conrod reported that he has scheduled the mid-summer salamander census for Saturday, July 31, at 9:30 am. It will be open to the public and advertised on the TCC and Town websites, as well as in the Tamworth Exchange.

Wetlands and Shorelands –

Groundwater Protection Ordinance Committee – Kit reported that the committee had its first meeting. David Little gave them some background on the previous effort to adopt an ordinance. The boiler-plate ordinance model is intended for towns with a zoning ordinance and would need some major tweaking. Support from the Selectboard and local businesses would be crucial to getting the ordinance adopted. The delineation of any zones should wait until the tax map revision is completed.

Tax Map 410, Lots 87 & 88 – Nelson reported that a local resident contacted him with concerns about activities on the subject property, which has had some wetland dredge and fill issues. Nelson called NH-DES and inquired about the status of the property. NH-DES said they had not been back for an inspection. Nelson passed the information on to the resident, who declined to file a complaint.

Managed Lands and Trails – Nelson reported that he discussed the eroded section on the Betty Steele Loop Trail with Bob Hardy. Bob recommended that the trail be relocated to the level area above the steep slope. Nelson will flag out a proposed route for the relocation. He will contact Dylan Alden and ask her to lend her expertise for choosing the best route.

Other Business – Gabrielle Watson asked for TCC's opinion on logging in Hemenway State Forest. Nelson replied that he could only speak for himself. He stated that TCC and the NH Division of Forests and Lands have a good working relationship. The state has been responsive to concerns and suggestions of TCC. The state forest is a multiple use property and timber management is one of the primary uses. He encouraged Gabrielle to contact Commissioner Sarah L. Stewart with any concerns she may have.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Eric moved, Anneliese seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.