

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft minutes – June 13, 2022 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 7:03pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Dylan Alden, Eileen Shelly, Jeremy Phillips, Kit Morgan, Ned Beecher
Also present were: Randall Dearborn, Planning Board Representative and Emery Roberts, Select Board Representative.

Approval of Minutes for 5/9/22 – Jeremy moved to approve the minutes following the correction of 3 spelling errors. Eileen seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Financial – Charlie was not present. No financial action was discussed or taken.

Planning Board – Randall reported that the Hertel subdivision on Bryant Heights Road has been approved.

Selectboard – Emory asks whether easement monitoring can be done at any time during the year. Yes, it can be done at any time. Nelson noted that he had provided Selectperson Kelly

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Gilman Forest - SPNHF has given notification that they will be doing some logging on Gilman Forest which is owned by SPNHF with an easement held by the Town.

Perkins Easement (3 Parcels) – In addressing the issue, Kit received the draft easements prepared by the lawyer for the Bearcamp Center which relates to 2 easements. Commission comments were being sought regarding the Zero Mile Farm giving rights to the Bearcamp Center to do programming on Zero Mile Farm property. No such rights were stated.
Nelson noted that much of the Zero Mile Farm property is now fenced-in pasture.
Kit noted that the easement specifies that access by the Bearcamp Community cannot interfere with working agriculture. It also notes no such rights will transfer to a subsequent owner.
The lawyer is seeking the official support/approval of the Town. The document is not precedent-setting. Randall noted that the original easement of 1991 now applies to both properties. Ned agreed, encourages support and made the motion that the Conservation Commission recommend to the Selectmen that the split conservation deed be accepted with the understanding that it is not precedent-setting. New deeds will be recorded and the above statement would be recorded as a second document; that is, the deeds and the easement document will both be recorded. This will be understood to be a singular agreement.
The vote in favor was unanimous with Nelson O'Bryan abstaining. Nelson will provide a summary for the Selectmen. Appreciation was expressed to Kit for managing this complex issue for the Commission.

Public Education and Outreach

Family Day/Groundwater Protection – Jeremy reported the Groundwater Protection Committee is in the process of acquiring water quality monitoring kits to distribute. It was suggested this could be done over several weeks at the Farmers Market. The kits are given without charge; however, there is an \$85 fee to have the sample analyzed. Nelson suggested the booth could include a drawing of purchasers' names with the Commission paying the fee for the person drawn; one a week to a maximum expenditure of \$400. The recipient would have to be a Tamworth resident. Also, Kit noted that test kits are available through Green Mountain Conservation Group. Ned moved to support this activity. Jeremy seconded. The vote to support the effort and allot \$400 was unanimous.

Wetlands/Shorelands

Nelson announced that the Betty Steele Bridge on Chinook Trail (113A) at the juncture of Old Mail Road and Fowler Mill Road is scheduled by the state for replacement. The timeline has not yet been noted; however, it will require closure of Chinook Trail for an undetermined span of time. Information is available online on the NHDOT website.

Managed Lands and Trails

Betty Steele Trail -The trail is being rerouted to eliminate a steep and potentially dangerous section along the Wonalancet River. Nelson has met and walked the trail with Bob Hardy.

Nelson and Dylan have reconned the relocation in an effort to maintain the character of the trail while eliminating the hazardous section which is steep and slippery in some areas. This old, potentially dangerous stretch will be covered with brush.

Nelson will confirm the plan with Bob Hardy and then schedule a workday. All will be welcome to participate. It will not involve a lot of heavy cutting.

Fire Tower Windows - Nelson has been storing 11 of the original 12 windows from the Fire Tower. They are available to anyone who would like them. They were removed when it ceased to serve as a fire watch. Two have been promised to Charlie Townsend. Nelson will post their availability on the Exchange with the caution that they might contain lead paint.

Waterfowl Haven – The field , which abounds in black locust, needs to be mowed. Emery offered to check with a mower he knows.

Bearcamp Field – Does not need work this year.

Trail Maintenance: Mostly Brushing

Jackman Pond: Nelson

Waterfowl Haven: Ned & Eileen

Black Spruce Bog – Dylan, Eileen & Chele

Big Pines – Kit, Jeremy, Eileen & Dylan

Other Business:

None

Kit moved to adjourn. Ned seconded. Unanimous.