

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – September 12, 2022, Tamworth Town House

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Charlie Townsend, Jeremy Phillips, Dylan Alden and Kit Morgan. Commissioners absent: Eileen Shelly. Alternates present: Chele Miller. Alternates absent: Lucy Gatchell, Stephanie Doyle and Ned Beecher. Nelson appointed Chele to fill an empty seat. Also present: Randall Dearborn, Planning Board; Kelly Goodson, Selectboard; Bob Hardy and Mike Powers, NH Division of Forests and Lands; various members of the public.

Approval of Minutes for 08/08/2022 – Chele moved to accept the minutes as written. Dylan seconded, motion carried.

Administrative and Announcements

Received copy of NH-DES approval for bridge work on Chinook Trail at the Swift River.

Nelson announced that Stephanie Doyle is moving out of town and will be stepping down as TCC Alternate.

Planned Timber Harvest in Hemenway State Forest

Bob Hardy presented the plans for a timber harvest. It consists of a total of 49 acres around the Boy Scout camp on Fowler's Mill Road and the area west of Chinook Trail and south of Bickford Road. Treatments will be second-cut shelterwood and seed tree. Much of the red pine will be harvested because of its vulnerability to red pine scale disease. The amount of pulpwood taken will depend on which logging company gets the contract. To reduce interference with long-eared bat breeding, snowmobile trail use and Boy Scout activities, the timing will be limited to between August 15 and December 15. No cutting will be done near historical artifacts related to the CCC camp. In response to questions, Bob stated that no-cut buffers would be along roadsides and he would work with abutters when choosing trees to cut near property lines.

Financial – Charlie reported that it's time to submit a preliminary proposed budget for 2023. He moved to propose a budget of \$6588; 200 less than the current budget. Dylan seconded, motion carried.

Planning Board – Randall announced two public hearings for Wednesday, September 14: Capital Improvement Plan at 6 pm and Groundwater Protection Ordinance at 6:45 pm.

Selectboard – Kelly reported that the Town Office meeting room will be closed for the rest of the week because of remodeling work in the vault and the basement. She reported that the town will be advertising for two positions: maintenance person and recreation director. The Swift River bridge work will start in April of next year.

Easement Monitoring – It's never too early to get started. Kit reported on a NHACC Zoom presentation on using Gaia software for smartphones to help with easement monitoring. He will provide a link to the Zoom presentation.

Public Education and Outreach – Nelson reported a NHF&G habitat small grants program.

Wetlands and Shorelands – Nelson reiterated Randalls announcement that there will be a public hearing on Wednesday concerning the Groundwater Protection Ordinance.

Managed Lands and Trails

Betty Steele Loop Relocation – The relocation is complete and the signs have been installed.

Outdoor Spaces – This is a local group that facilitates projects of other groups, primarily through seeking and writing grants. Nelson will forward the information to the Tamworth Community Nurse Association because they might be able to use it for their trail project.

Waterfowl Haven Mowing – Nelson will contact Emery Roberts or others about getting the field mowed.

Conservation Land

Perkins Easement – Nelson reported that Christine Filmore had informed him earlier in the day that she had received responses to the Town's proposal to rectify the legal issues caused by the subdivision of the Perkins easement but has not had time to review them.

Proposed Aspinall Easement – Scott Aspinall has offered to donate a conservation easement on Tax Map/Lot 414/96.1, on the condition that the Town cover the costs of survey work and deed preparation. This lot is a property of interest because it abuts Lunt Ledge and has road frontage directly across Cleveland Hill Road from conservation land. It is a key piece of the Whites to Ossipees wildlife corridor. Kit moved that TCC recommend to the Selectboard that they support acceptance of the easement and that TCC cover the costs of a property survey and deed preparation. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Other Business – Charlie reported that he had attended the Right to Know training session held earlier in the day and will report on it if asked. A discussion on Right to Know laws ensued.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Chele moved, Charlie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.