

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – December 13, 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 7:05 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Jeremy Phillips, Chele Miller, Kit Morgan, Dylan Alden and Charlie Townsend. Commissioners absent: Stephanie Doyle. Alternates present: Ned Beecher, Lucy Gatchell and Eric Dube. Alternates absent: none. Nelson assigned Ned to fill the empty seat. Also present: Melanie Streeter, Selectboard; Randall Dearborn, Planning Board; Eileen Shelly; and Grant Prillaman.

Ned brought a delectable smorgasbord of holiday treats.

Approval of Minutes for 11/08/2021 – Charlie moved to accept the minutes as written. Chele seconded, motion carried. Ned abstained.

Administrative and Announcements

Received acknowledgement and thanks from Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) for contributing to their water quality monitoring program.

Received the latest copy of the GMCG newsletter.

Nelson welcomed Eileen Shelly to the meeting. She is interested in TCC. She has a background in plant science and she formerly served on the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission.

Financial

Charlie reported that the tree removal at the Big Pines footbridge was paid for with Conservation Fund money. There is \$2146.37 left in the annual budget. The only expected remaining expense is the final payroll payment.

Nelson brought up the question of cost of living allowance (COLA) for next year's budget. The Selectboard will not be making COLA recommendations. It will be up to individual town departments to propose any COLA adjustments. This is something TCC should address before the town meeting warrant is published.

Planning Board

Randall reported four new applications for subdivision and boundary line adjustments: Cleveland Hill Road, Hackett Hill Road, and two on Gilman Valley Road.

Selectboard

Melanie announced that the Selectboard is almost done with the 2022 budget review and there will be a public hearing when it is complete. On January 29 there will be a public auction at the Town House to dispose of properties acquired for non-payment of taxes. The junkyard letters got good responses and a number of yards have been cleaned up. There are still some hold-outs.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Perkins Easement – Nelson reported that the town attorney and landowner attorney are still in negotiations with the State of New Hampshire – Conservation Land Stewardship Program concerning the sale of two lots containing parts of the conservation easement.

Lunt Ledge – Nelson reported that Scott Aspinall has continued talking with a group of landowners around Lunt Ledge in an effort to form a coordinated land protection project. The landowner responses vary quite a bit. Nelson suggested that it might be better to focus on individual landowners of the highest priority lots. Discussion resulted in the agreement that the road frontage is the most critical area (Lot 414/95 and the southwest corner of Lot 414/96.1). Lot 411/1 contains Lunt Ledge proper and has significant conservation value (cliffy refugia) but it is landlocked and has a low risk of development.

Wetlands and Shorelands

Bogart Lot – Nelson reported that he received an interim report that wetlands mitigation work on Lot 410/120 is proceeding as agreed with NH-DES. No action required by TCC.

Managed Lands and Trails

Betty Steele Loop at Big Pines Natural Area – Nelson reported that the dead trees at the footbridge have been removed. He is still waiting on a memorandum of understanding from Bob Hardy for the trail relocation. There is no rush because the work won't be done until next year.

Easement Monitoring

Chele reported that most monitoring inspections have been completed. The remainder are in progress.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Ned moved, Jeremy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.