

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – February 14, 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 7:08 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Chele Miller, Kit Morgan, Dylan Alden and Stephanie Doyle. Commissioners attending online were Jeremy Phillips and Eileen Shelly. Commissioners absent: None. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell. Alternates attending online: Ned Beecher and Eric Dube. Alternates absent: None.

Also present: Melanie Streeter, Selectboard; Randall Dearborn, Planning Board.

Also attending online: Jill Emerson and Catlin Noseworthy, for Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG).

Approval of Minutes for 01/10/2022 – Kit moved to accept the minutes as written. Chele seconded, motion carried.

GMCG Water Quality Review – Jill Emerson and Catlin Noseworthy reported on the current status of water quality monitoring done by GMCG at three sites in Tamworth. The overall results indicate good water quality. Potential areas of concern include increasing trends of phosphorus in the Bearcamp River and salinity in the Chocorua River. The increase in salinity is likely due to road salt usage. A discussion on mitigating salinity is included in the GMCG 15 Year Water Quality Report, available here: <https://www.gmcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/15yr-WQ-Report-Final-Draft.pdf>. Jill also discussed GMCG's ongoing research on microplastics in lakes. Information on the research is at <https://www.gmcg.org/microplastics-research/>.

Administrative and Announcements

Nelson announced that this is the last meeting for Melanie and Eric. They will both be missed.

Kit announced that the Harris Center will have a Zoom workshop on March 15 at 7 pm. It is for salamander crossing brigade volunteer training.

Financial

In Charlie's absence, Nelson reported that the Conservation Fund balance is at \$75,000.

Received a bill of \$869.44 from Drumond Wilson for legal work. Kit moved to approve payment, to come out of the Conservation Fund. Chele seconded, motion carried.

Planning Board – Randall reported that the Macy subdivision on Chinook Trail has been approved. There is still one application under review. The board will soon start to work on subdivision ordinance revisions.

Selectboard – Melanie asked if anyone present could explain the state RSA on access to landlocked parcels for timber harvests. No takers. She also reminded the commission that any contractors hired by the commission should supply proof of insurance. The town budget and warrant are completed.

Easement Monitoring – All 2021 easement reports have been received and all executory reports have been sent out. It's time to do the 2022 monitoring.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Perkins Easement – Nelson reported that, because he has offered an easement on his property as a mitigation of any loss in conservation value of the Perkins easement due to the subdivision, he has turned over the duties of consulting with the town attorney to Kit. Kit reported that the town attorney has asked for clarification of TCC's vote last month and raised some issues that the commission should address: is TCC willing to take on additional landowners and monitoring obligations, should TCC require stewardship fund donations from the landowner(s), and the probability of litigation, either state vs TCC or TCC vs The Community School (now Bearcamp Center for Sustainable Community) if the state doesn't accept the easement subdivision. After much discussion, Kit moved that 1) TCC has no problem with monitoring additional easements, 2) TCC can't recommend accepting a new easement without due diligence (*which can't be accomplished before the March 10 deadline*), and 3) the preference of TCC is to have one landowner on the Perkins easement. Stephanie seconded, motion carried.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Chele moved, Stephanie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.