

## **MINUTES**

### **Conservation Lands Review Committee of the Tamworth Conservation Commission Friday, May 4, 2012**

*Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting.*

**Members Present:** Ned Beecher, John Mersfelder (left at 10:47 am), Bob Seston, Katy Thompson, David Little, Chele Miller.

**Others Present:** Chris Conrod.

The meeting started at 9:32 am.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** All previous minutes of Committee meetings were accepted as written.

#### **Bearcamp Valley Farm**

Ned recently talked with Bob Floyd. Bob is now motivated to sell legal interest in some of his property; either fee-simple or easements. It needs to be a simple transaction.

Katy and Chele discussed the possibility of Bob F. forming a mentor-protégé relationship with a young farmer who could live in one of the vacant houses. This might help relieve some financial burden and ensure continuation of the farm. This would not necessarily be coordinated by CLRC but by others. Chele has already mentioned this to Jigs. Ned might talk to Bob about this as a separate issue.

As discussed in earlier meetings, there are no federal programs or grants available where the BVF would qualify and Bob could continue farming. Land protection projects on this property will have to continue to be piecemeal. Bob F. and Ned discussed a conservation easement on lot 420/14. Ned suggested buying an easement for \$25,000. Bob F. said he would have to get \$40,000. He would also like to do something with lot 420/7 (Elva Bickford's) by the end of this year.

It might be worth talking to Van Hertel about the Sandwich portion of the west field, to see if he would be willing to donate an easement as leverage for a combined project. We should ask Bob F. how much he would want to purchase the lot. We need an appraisal of the lot for easement and full purchase. The town would need to hold a legal interest in the property if any conservation funds are expended for the purchase price.

#### **To Do List**

- Get opinion of value – Katy will talk to Lois Merrithew.
- Talk with Sandwich CC and/or LRCT re Hertel Field.
- Talk with Don Berry before approaching Hertel.
- Talk to Hertel.
- Ask Bob F. how much he would want for fee-simple purchase of lot 420/14.
- Talk to Bob F re mentor-apprenticeship.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.