

MINUTES

Conservation Lands Review Committee

Friday, March 7, 2014

Cook Memorial Library – Ulitz Room (basement)

These are draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting.

Present: Ned Beecher (Chair), Kate Thompson, Chele Miller, John Mersfelder. **Also:** Nelson O'Bryan and Martha Twombly

Ned opened the meeting at 10:05 am.

Southern Lots

Ned reviewed the recent closing on this conservation easement.

- The easement was signed with Bob Floyd (Grantor) and Nelson O'Bryan (TCC Chair) on the morning of February 13th, with Cassandra Pearce (Town Administrator and Notary) and Ned Beecher witnessing.
- The easement was signed by the Selectmen at their meeting later that same day, after a unanimous vote for the Town to accept the easement.
- Cassandra was very helpful in getting a check for \$30K put through as quickly as possible, and Selectmen Chair John Roberts made a special trip to get it signed on Friday, the 14th, by the Town Treasurer Mariette Ross. Ned delivered the check to Mr. Floyd early Saturday morning, February 15th.
- The final payment to Mr. Floyd will be by check on June 2nd, for a total of \$12,925, in accordance with the Purchase & Sale agreement.
- Ned brought to the Registry the Conservation Easement Deed and the mylar copy of the signed survey for recording on Friday, February 14th.
- The following week, Nelson gave Mr. Floyd signed & recorded copies of the easement & survey.
- A couple of days before the easement signing, Mr. Floyd provided Ned with the forest management plan created by Edward G. Witt, forester for Madison Lumber. Nelson will scan it and send it to the Committee members and the TCC. TCC will review it at their Monday meeting (March 10).
- Ned has checked with Cassandra, and all the Bearcamp Valley Farm still owned by Mr. Floyd - Eastern Field and the Southern Lots - are in Current Use; Cassandra is checking on whether it would be any benefit to put them in conservation tax brackets – would it save Mr. Floyd additional on taxes?
- Ned expressed thanks to all who helped make this conservation easement possible, especially this Committee, Susan Bryant-Kimball, David White, Nelson O'Bryan, Cassandra Pearce, and the Selectmen.

Reich / Gilman West (Freeto) Conservation Project (“Expanding Gilman Forest”)

The main purpose of the meeting was to check in on where we are with fundraising for this project. The Committee reviewed and discussed the following:

- February 16 walk – successful; decent turnout. Thanks to all who made it happen! The challenge offered for just that day, which was put up by a generous local donor, was a 1-to-1 match for any money donated or pledged that day. That ended up triggering donations totaling \$1025, making for total funds raised for the day of \$2050. A few of the

contributions that day were second gifts from local supporters. Many thanks to the local donor who provided this match!

- The Committee members reviewed the list of people they have each contacted; most of our original list has now been contacted. Ned, Katy, and Chele each have a few more to finishing contacting, and they will do so in the next couple of weeks.
- Nelson and Chele submitted an application to the Tamworth Foundation for \$25,000. The Foundation meets on March 15th. Ned plans to attend. Ned will check with Foundation Chair Keats Myer to make sure it is okay to attend. It was suggested Ned present a short version of the slideshow shown to the group on February 16th.
- Martha has submitted an application to the Fields Pond Foundation for \$25,000. She will check with them next week to see when she will hear their decision. They are on a rolling grant schedule, so it should be within a month.
- The initial fundraising deadline for this project was February 28. Tom Howe and Martha managed to get the Reich closing pushed back some, to allow for a couple of extra months of fundraising. April 30 is current new deadline; all of us need to state consistently that this is our deadline now. Hopefully, we will make our goal by then.
- In our fundraising outreach now, we can mention that we are closing in on \$100,000 raised, and that there are two grant proposals that we expect will help use jump ahead, and that pledges can be paid later or in installments if donors need to do so (Ned will let the Foundation know this also, if needed).
- Martha mentioned that the Forest Society has not sent a fundraising letter for this project to its members in neighboring towns. They have been talking about doing this. It was agreed that this can be something to help with the final push of the fundraising effort.
- Nelson offered to send thank you letters to all donors that sent their money directly to Tamworth; Ned will send the list to Nelson.
- It was agreed that the Committee members will finish their few local outreach efforts soon. Otherwise, we will wait for next steps to see what happens with the grants. Then we will reconvene to organize the final push.
- Ned thanked Martha for making the trip to Tamworth for this meeting.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 21st, 10:00 am, Tamworth Town Offices
