

Minutes

Conservation Lands Review Committee

May 31, 2013

Draft minutes to reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting.

Present: John Mersfelder, Chele Miller, Ned Beecher, Kate Thompson. Also: Nelson O'Bryan and David White.

Wonalancet Protection Association (WPA)

- The Committee discussed the WPA's ongoing conservation initiatives.
- They are interested in converting covenants to conservation easements.
- Considering working with outside groups.

CMI Mitigation Easement in Sandwich

- Sandwich Conservation Commission voted to recommend to the Selectmen that the Town of Sandwich accept a gift of the mitigation parcel that Club Motorsports (CMI) owns, with conservation restriction, and with the understanding that there will be a conservation easement put on it in the near future.
- David thinks the Selectmen will likely take the SCC recommendations. However, there is a possibility that there will be a petition to delay the process and require a vote at Town Meeting. We think this will likely lead to CMI abandoning the mitigation conservation project and paying into the state wetland mitigation fund (ARM).
- It was agreed by this Committee that Tamworth has no formal role in what happens with this in Sandwich.

Cook Property

- Fish & Game is interested, but we would probably need to take the lead. This could be something that would interest Trust for Public Lands, who might be a short-term intermediate owner. Another option: Trout Unlimited – Paul Doscher at Forest Society is link, pdoscher@forestsociety.org. Jim Fitzgerald is another Trout Unlimited contact.
- Would want to have a thorough assessment of the wildlife and conservation value, as well as a sense of its development potential. The Committee recommends to the TCC that Chris Conrod be asked to create a written study [after the meeting Chris reminded us that he has done so already, and we have that document].
- Ned noted that someone needs to take the lead to do the research and legwork on this.
- Katy and David will confer and Katy will talk with Harold about the possibility of holding off on selling, to allow us to develop a plan later this year.

Floyd

- Agreed that there is nothing to be done on this at this time.

Reich/Gilman West

- Ned heard from Tom Howe with a couple of questions, which he answered.
- No date set yet for starting fundraising.

Committee Membership

- Will confirm the membership with Nelson and TCC. Ned will check with the following members to ensure they want to remain: Katy, Chele, David Little, John Mersfelder, Chris Conrod.

Adjourn: Katy moved, Chele second, all approved.