

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes – February 13, 2023, 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 7:00 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Eileen Shelly, Dylan Alden and Kit Morgan. Commissioners absent: Charlie Townsend and Jeremy Phillips. Alternates present: Ned Beecher, Chele Miller and Lucy Gatchell. Alternates absent: Stephanie Doyle. Nelson appointed Ned and Lucy to fill empty seats. Also present: Randall Dearborn, Planning Board; Kelly Goodson, Selectboard; Bob Hardy, NH Division of Forests and Lands; and Wendy Scribner, UNH Cooperative Extension.

Approval of Minutes for 01/09/2023 – It was noted that Chris Clyne's name was misspelled. Dylan moved to accept the minutes with the correction. Eileen seconded, motion carried.

Administrative and Announcements

Ned did a presentation on conservation land in Tamworth last week. It was part of the Cook Memorial Library's "Face to Face" series. He did a great job. The video is available on the Library's website and on YouTube.

Nelson reported that TCC's files have been relocated to accommodate more space in the meeting room. Most of them are now in the basement, awaiting permanent residence in the vault.

Timber Harvest at White Lake State Park – Bob Hardy presented the details. The harvest will be on 111 acres bounded by Irene's Way, the snowmobile trail that heads northwest, the west boundary of the Park, and Depot Road. It will be a shelterwood cut, managed for pine. One third of the pine will be taken. Pitch pine trees will not be taken. Red pine trees will be thinned to reduce the chance of Sirococcus shoot blight. There will be a hundred foot buffer around the kettle hole and the wetlands. Trees along Irene's Way will be left standing to reduce the possibility of creating any unauthorized parking areas. Timing is expected to be between August 15 and December 15. The intent is to be done before snowmobile season. It might not start until after Labor Day so the campers are not bothered by the heavy equipment. Bob agreed to let TCC know before starting so hikers could be directed to take alternate routes to the kettle holes and pitch pine area.

Financial – Nelson reported that the proposed TCC 2023 budget was reviewed by the Selectboard. There were no objections to it.

Planning Board – Randall reported that there were no public hearings in the past month. Still working on subdivision regulations. They should be ready for the 2024 town meeting.

Selectboard – Kelly reported that the Board is finalizing the budget. There are still openings for transfer station attendant and assistant tax clerk.

Public Education and Outreach

History Center Summer Exhibit – A subcommittee of Nelson, Dylan and Eileen was formed. The exhibit should be primarily focused on trails and recreation. The History Center is hoping for a mid to late May opening.

Camp Sponsorships – Jeremy has info for programs to be offered by Squam Science Center but he couldn't make the meeting. Tin Mountain has yet to work out all the details of their summer programs. Ned and Lucy will work with the Brett School, Tin Mountain and Squam. Nelson will contact Lianne about Bearcamp Center programs. \$500 dollars is budgeted for the sponsorships.

Groundwater Protection Ordinance – The ordinance will be on the March ballot. Kit reported that there will be a groundwater protection event at the Cook Library on February 18. Discussed possibility of using roadside campaign signs.

Managed Lands and Trails

TrailFinder – Nelson reported that he was contacted by the people at www.trailfinder.info about including TCC trails in their website. He supplied them with information on the Jackman Pond Wildlife Area. Commissioners reviewed the web page and agreed it would be good to get the other natural areas listed on the website.

Kennett Triangle – Nelson reported that Crosby Kennett is planning on having a timber harvest on his property and he would like to have TCC help him walk and mark the boundary between his property and town property. Nelson will do this and determine if it might be worth asking the contractor about harvesting any timber on the town land.

Conservation Land

Christopher Alt Easements – The Forest Society lawyers recommend that Tamworth assign all legal interest in the easements to the Forest Society before the consolidation of the easements takes place. The consolidation will include an executive interest for the town of Tamworth. Nelson has informed the Selectboard of the impending transfer.

Perkins Easement – The subdivision required before the Bearcamp Center can grant the portion of the Perkins Easement on their property to Zero Mile Farm will possibly be ready for application at the Planning Board's March meeting.

Other Business

Nelson reminded the commissioners that the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are open for election at the March 13 TCC meeting. Here's your chance to climb the ladder of power and prestige.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Dylan moved, Ned seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.