

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Minutes – August 14, 2023, Tamworth Town Office
Minutes reviewed and approved at the September 11, 2023 meeting

Call to Order – Nelson O'Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Eileen Shelly, Charlie Townsend and Kit Morgan. Commissioners absent: Teresa Fournier, Dylan Alden and Jeremy Phillips. Alternates present: Lucy Gatchell. Alternates absent: Ned Beecher and Stephanie Doyle. Nelson appointed Lucy to fill an empty seat. Also present: Nick Grant, Planning Board and Richard Doucette, Selectboard.

Approval of Minutes for 07/10/2023 – Charlie moved to accept the minutes as written. Kit seconded, motion carried.

Administrative and Announcements

Received copies of NH-DES trails(1) and forestry(1) approvals by notification.

Received copy of Wetland Restoration Progress Monitoring Report for the Bogart properties.

Financial – Charlie reported one bill of \$800 from Bearcamp Center for four summer camp attendees. Squam Lakes Natural Science Center returned the payment for the canceled attendee. Charlie moved to authorize payment of \$800 to the Bearcamp Center. Lucy seconded, motion carried. Nelson reported that there should be a bill coming in soon from the town attorney for reviewing some documents.

Planning Board – Nick Grant reported that the Groundwater Protection Committee received the Highwatch Award from the Green Mountain Conservation Group. The Board is putting the final touches on the revised subdivision ordinance. Eversource is planning on expanding the substation on Maple Road. They may need a conditional use permit.

Selectboard – Richard Doucette reported that the Board has contracted a consultant for the recycling center improvements. Construction costs have substantially risen. The Board is applying for grants to help cover costs. The planned replacement for the Town House fire escape has been redesigned for better access.

Easement Monitoring – It's never too early to do your monitoring.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Aspinall Lot – Nelson reported that the Lakes Region Conservation Trust committee has visited the land and appears to be impressed. Still waiting for a decision to proceed.

Alt Consolidation – Five reassignment documents have been reviewed by the town attorney. She is waiting to meet with the Forest Society attorney to reach an agreement.

Chocorua Park – Nelson has discussed the proposed easement with the Selectboard. Their thoughts and concerns were similar to those of the Commission. The park is an asset to the town but it is lacking any concrete plans for future maintenance of the park and dam. It does not meet the Commission's guidelines for a conservation easement, particularly the right to operate a commercial power plant. Nelson moved that he write a letter to the owners, stating the town's concerns. Kit seconded, motion carried.

Wetlands and Shorelands – No new business.

Managed Lands and Trails – No new business.

Other Business – Kit announced that he and Sheldon Perry met with the town administrator about the Groundwater Protection Ordinance. They will create a list of all known businesses within the groundwater protection zone, contact them, and mail out a FYI letter to the general town population. They are also looking into grants that could cover costs.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Charlie moved, Kit seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.