

Tamworth Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – September 11, 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 7:03 pm. Commissioners present were Nelson O'Bryan, Eileen Shelly, Charlie Townsend, Teresa Fournier, Dylan Alden, Jeremy Phillips and Kit Morgan. Commissioners absent: none. Alternates present: Ned Beecher and Lucy Gatchell. Alternates absent: Stephanie Doyle. Also present: Nick Grant, Planning Board.

Approval of Minutes for 08/14/2023 – Kit moved to accept the minutes with a revision under Conservation Easements – Alt Consolidation to state that the Town Attorney is waiting for a response from the SPNHF attorney to schedule a meeting. Eileen seconded, motion carried.

Administrative and Announcements – none

Financial – Charlie reported one bill of \$800 from Bearcamp Center for four summer camp attendees has been paid. Received bill of \$990 from Green Mountain Conservation Group for water sampling. Charlie moved to authorize payment of \$990 to Green Mountain Conservation Group. Dylan seconded, motion carried. The Select Board will be wanting TCC's proposed 2024 budget sometime after the October meeting. Charlie presented a suggested draft budget of \$6,428 for review and discussion at the October meeting.

Planning Board – Nick Grant reported that the Capital Improvement Plan is ready for a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, September 13. The Transfer Station improvements will cost much more than anticipated. The Groundwater Protection Committee is working on getting the word out to the public, identifying affected businesses and obtaining a compliance officer.

Easement Monitoring – The state Conservation Land Stewardship Program visited the Cave, Perkins and Aspinall easements this summer. Their reports can serve as the TCC annual monitoring reports. Jeremy will ask Chele Miller what her intentions are regarding the Hayfield, Irwin and Olton easements. We may need to find a new monitor.

Public Education and Outreach – David Govatski and the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau will be visiting the Big Pines Natural Area on September 24. They will be re-measuring the state champion white pine. Nelson will inform David of any TCC members who want to attend.

Conservation Easements/Land Protection

Perkins Easement – The entire easement is now owned by Zero Mile Farm. The NH Attorney General's office has accepted the corrective quitclaim deed and no further action is needed.

Aspinall Lot – The Lakes Region Conservation Trust is interested in acquiring the property but does not want the area with the buildings. Because of road frontage constraints, a subdivision would need a waiver. Nelson will contact Sheldon Perry to get on the Planning Board's agenda to discuss ideas for separating the building area from the rest of the lot.

Alt Consolidation – The town attorney and the Forest Society attorney have been playing phone tag and musical vacations. It is hoped that sometime in the next month they will get together to work out an agreement concerning the various documents needed to transfer easements to the Forest Society.

Chocorua Park – Nelson received a revised easement proposal from the landowners. Discussion of concerns included: It will be difficult to find a buyer for the property. The dam presents maintenance expenses and liability issues. Any future subdivision or separation of ownership between the two lots of record will increase stewardship costs for the grantor. Nelson will respond to the proposal.

Managed Lands and Trails – Report all trail issues due to the recent wind and rain storm to Dylan. Nelson will ask Emery Roberts about mowing Bearcamp Field and Waterfowl Haven. Kit will talk to the Franchis about a sign for the Page Hill trail. The viewpoint needs clearing.

Membership – Nelson reminded all that he is finishing his term next year. He is willing to help with the transfer to a new Administration.

Adjourn – There being no other business brought before the Commission, Jeremy moved, Eileen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by Chris Conrod, TCC Administrative Assistant.