

TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION - OCTOBER 12, 1992

PRESENT: John Mersfelder, Nat Steele, Ned Beecher, Chris Conrod, Harold Cook, Peg King, Betty Steele

1. Minutes of previous meeting were approved.
2. Procedural guidelines - agreed to aim for 9:30 to end meeting, but extend to 10:00 if needed. Suggested members raise hand for recognition from chair, if needed in order to speak.
3. Easement and trail - Ambrose land. Chris outlined a proposal he would like to make for purchase of an easement, possible price \$1500, on the part of his land which is on prime wetlands as marked on prime wetlands map, and all within 25 ft. of prime wetlands, an area of 5 or 10 acres, approximately half of which is swamp and half the edge along brook, not all contiguous. TCC would maintain a trail on easement area. He proposed no residential, industrial or commercial activity on easement area. There was discussion as to whether an exception should be made for forestry and agriculture. Chris stated he had not excepted these, as is often done on esements, because he felt the land was not suitable for either. It was agreed not to include these exceptions in easement unless Ambrose requested it. The proposal, as outlined by Chris, was agreed to, and he will send it to Ambrose.
4. Davies Land on Cleveland Hill Rd - It was reported that the road lots had been sold and now the back lot had been sold to Bear Habitat Protection.
5. Reports - a. September 29th meeting with Kettenring was attended by 26 people from 7 towns; 13 were Conservation Commission members, 7 Planning Board, 4 Selectmen, and 2 others. Peg has a bill to present to the Treasurer for refreshments.
 - b. Lindsay hearing at Wetlands Board. John had notified all Commission members, and John, Peg, and Betty attended. Lindsay's case was presented by Mr. Hill, lawyer, and Mr. Spear, environmental consultant. In this presentation no mention was made of dredging or other work done at fill site; and it was stated that the Lindsays had taken the initiative as to the easement they had granted. Peg stated to the Board that the Commission had approached the Lindsays to ask for the easement, and that they were entirely agreeable. John spoke to support the Lindsay's presentation in all its salient points. The Lindsays had filed a request with the Wetlands Board for a change in the boundary of the prime wetlands, a request which they will withdraw if their present application is approved. Mr. Kettenring told members of the Commission that he would recommend approval of the application, and that there be no fine. The Board cannot act on this for ten days, pending any written comments.
 - c. Tour of Cave Easement. John and Chris went on this tour conducted by Willie Farnum.
 - d. Duck Pond. Sluiceway at Duck Pond has been cleared six times, by John and Chris, with beaver plugging it up each time. John said the State had agreed that trapping need not take place until winter, when beaver pelts would be more salable.
 - e. Remick Natural Area. Ned reported the Bearcamp Valley School was rehabilitating the signs and writing a new descriptive sheet. The School would like to add a spur trail along the stream where there are some things of interest. There is a beaver dam in the brook which appears to be inactive. (Note - the School did the original work on the trail and uses it frequently.)
 - f. Meeting on Master Plan. John and Chris attended a special Planning Board Meeting on the Plan. Scott Aspinall and Paul Henle, who are in charge of this, have said volunteer help will be needed. Surveys done in surrounding towns have been collected and from them a survey for Tamworth will be drafted.

5 f (cont.) If these surveys are to be distributed and collected individually, as was done with the original plan, many people will be needed.

g. Recycling leaves. Nat reported Karl Behr would be glad of clippings and leaves if clear of plastic. Leaves left at dump would probably not be clear of it.

h. Hazardous Waste. John reported a total of 1175 households had participated, 20 of these from Tamworth. Peg said last year costs per town were computed on number of participants from town rather than population. Nat suggested there be some collection site for flashlight and other small batteries at the dump. Peg will discuss this with the recycling committee.

i. Thompson Natural Area - Lisa Thompson has had logs left at entrance and John will write to thank her. There is some trash there, which Chris agreed to pick up.

6. Dredge and Fill. a. Marsh - John read a report from Kettenring of an on site visit by staff member of Wetlands Board stating there appeared to be no violation in the area filled; but that there is a 140 ft. unstable area eroding into wetland which Marsh had agreed to stabilize when the Wetlands Board so informs him.

b. Ricker. An on site visit by Wetlands Board staff - no fill was found in the Wetland, and therefore no violation. TCC members said these reports ~~were~~ of violations had taken place some time ago, and the Wetlands Board had only now acted on them. In view of the two above reports from the Wetlands Board it was agreed that reports of violations should include photographic evidence.

c. Noot - John reported Wetlands Boards needs additional material for the application.

d. The Sanborn Brook ^{bridge} application has been approved, and work has been begun.

e. Wetlands Banking Program. John read a letter from the N. H. Department of Transportation aiming to establish a mitigation (no net loss of wetlands) program similar to the federal program, and requesting that Conservation Commission submit suggestions of potential bank sites. These must be ten acres or more, in public ownership or with possibility of an easement. After some discussion a motion was made and passed with one abstention:

VOTE I That the Tamworth Conservation Commission does not undertake this mitigation program as a project. (Moved by Betty, seconded by Chris).

In discussion prior to the vote it was suggested that the Commission go on record as opposing the mitigation program, but Betty stated that this was not the purpose of this particular motion, which was made as she felt that since several members had voiced philosophical concerns and had questioned the feasibility of creating new wetlands equal to those destroyed, this program should be low priority for TCC and not taken on as a project. It was agreed that individual members might notify owners of land which might be suitable so they could take advantage of the program if they wished.

7. NHACC Annual Meeting, Sat., Nov. 7. Chris, Betty and John will go; Ned may and will notify John of his decision. John will send in registration form and payment, due Oct. 28th. Neither Chris nor Betty wanted to sign up for a field trip.

VOTE II That TCC appropriate funds to pay for any members who wish to go to Annual Meeting. (Moved by Nat, seconded by Ned).

There was discussion as to answers to the survey sent to TCC by NHACC

VOTE III - To pay dues of \$150 to N. H. Association of Conservation Commissions.

8. John announced meetings and workshops of which he had received notice.

9. Alt Easement. Chris reported that Dick Alt wished to give the Town an easement of the rest of his road frontage down to Mill Brook (on west side of road his land only goes to a stone wall, not to brook). The area of his house would be excepted. The easement would be similar to other easements he has granted along the road. Chris will sound out selectmen to see if they will accept the easement, and will then talk with Dick Alt. TCC would like to accept easement. Nat said it would be better if the easement had a no sub-division clause. Chris, aware of costs of documenting and monitoring easements, had spoken to Dick of the possibility of a contingency fund, but said Dick was not receptive to the idea. It had been thought that Dick Alt planned to come to the meeting to make his own statement, but he did not come and perhaps had been unable to notify Chris.

Betty Steele