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**Tamworth Conservation Commission**  
**Tamworth, NH 03886**

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Draft Minutes November 10, 1997

Present: Charlie Townsend, Kris Bontaite, Alan Smith, John Mersfelder, Marlene Ostrowski, Chris Conrod.

1. Alternates Marlene and Alan are designated as voting members for this meeting.
2. Minutes of October meeting were approved with a correction to item #10: John and Chris did not determine that there were no wetlands in the area in question, but rather did not find any indicators of jurisdictional wetlands. The party in question was advised that a soil scientist or wetlands scientist might find otherwise.
3. Treasurers Report. Charlie reported that payments that were approved at the October meeting would have caused the Commission to go over budget. He withdrew the request for NHACC dues payment because this payment would be for 1998 dues and can be made next year. The current balance for the TCC annual budget is \$94.94.

Charlie obtained a print-out of the TCC pay-outs for the current year from Janet Connors. On it was a line item for a payment of \$87.50 to Mitchell & Bates for a telephone conference. It was agreed by the commission that this payment was not budgeted nor requested by the Commission. Furthermore, to the best of our knowledge the conference did not concern commission activities and therefore should not be charged to the TCC budget. John has already talked with the selectmen about this and will pursue it further.

At this point Chris moved and Charlie seconded that the meeting go into non-public session in accordance with RSA91-A:3,II(c).

Vote: Unanimous for going into non-public session.

After coming out of non-public session it was moved by Kris and seconded by Alan to seal the minutes of non-public session.

Vote: Unanimous for sealing minutes of non-public session.

4. Membership. John reported that he called Roy Ames to remind him of this meeting and ask Roy if he would attend. Roy told John that he (Roy) would not attend and that he would tender his resignation from the Commission to the Selectmen and would turn over all Commission handbooks in his possession to the Selectmen.

Roy stated that he did not approve of the way meetings



were run and did not like the make-up of the Commission membership. He specifically mentioned his disapproval with comments made about the Selectmen by some members.

Roy's Criticisms were discussed and it was generally felt by the Commission members that had Roy brought up his concerns at a meeting they could have been addressed and possibly worked out. The Commission and the Selectmen are not always in agreement on some issues and it is better to acknowledge and address these differences in order to try to reach an understanding of any limits placed upon the Commission by its appointing authority and to plan accordingly. It was agreed that despite any differences of opinion that may exist between the two boards that it is the intention of the Commission to work in harmony with the Selectmen and that in recent years both boards have worked to improve communications.

The commission was disappointed to hear of Roy's resignation and surprised to learn of his reasons, because he never brought them to the attention of the Commission. Kris stated that she was particularly concerned that the commission no longer has a member who represents the forestry profession. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to make an effort to do recruiting in that area.

5. Trails. John reported that he took in the Big Pines info. box and stored it for the winter in his garage. He said that the brochures/flyers placed in late summer had already been taken.

John also stated that he met with the DRED informational walk for Councilor Ray Burton at Big Pines.

Alan has received some comments on his draft for the Black Spruce flyer and will take them into consideration. He said he has also started a map to go in the flyer but would like to confer with Betty Steele before presenting it for review.

6. Land Conservation. Scott Aspinall contacted John about improvements/additions to buildings he would like to make on conservation easement property Scott owns. There are no definite plans or proposals at this time.

John found out from Amy Berrier that George Smith sold 80 acres to Steve Holden. This is Bearcamp Riverfront property that George had previously expressed an interest in protecting with easements or restrictions. It is reported that Mr. Holden bought the property for protection/buffer to abutting property he already owned. John will draft a letter to Mr. Holden expressing TCC interest in land conservation and offering any assistance that he may desire.

John's letter to David Little (a follow-up to the meeting between Mr. Little and Commission members concerning protection of James Pond) was rewritten by Alan (a vast improvement, according to John) and mailed to Mr. Little. John reported that Neely Lanou, on behalf of CLA/CLCF, has also contacted Mr. Little and has expressed the foundation's interest in seeing that area protected.

John reported that 1985 TCC minutes stated that Ossipee Conservation Commission was interested in transferring ownership of the parcel North of Depot Road to the Town of Tamworth. It was generally agreed that although the parcel is protected by a legal instrument, management might better be performed by a local authority. John will check with the Selectmen for guidance before the Commission takes any action.

John reported that he had attended a site walk at Bowditch-Runnells State Forest held by DRED to review a proposed timber harvest. It was well attended and a number of concerns were raised. Namely: relocation of a skidder road to remove it from the river bank, cutting along the river bank, and thinning along Route 16. Kris and John discussed possible hazards of moving the skidder road. This relocation would put the road on steeper terrain subject to erosion and do nothing to address the already rutted area that might be acceptable for use seeing that the harvest would be done in the winter, minimizing any chances of further erosion. Concerns about cutting along the river are hard to address because the dynamics of a riparian zone are impossible to predict (the river is going to shift no matter what the timber management practices are). Thinning along Route 16 was proposed by DRED in order to increase visibility and reduce the chance of moose-automobile collisions. Kris pointed out that a totally clear area of at least 50 feet in width is needed. John said that due to the steep road bank visibility would be limited anyway. Chris expressed concerns about how this would effect the pristine quality of the area. John reported that Mr. Hardy seemed receptive to any recommendations if a consensus could be reached.

Alan reported that after spending considerable time going over the GRANIT map produced by SPNHF he thought it would be best to write a letter to the SPNHF recommending that they either omit owners names from private holdings or start from scratch. He will do so and get it and the map to Chris so Chris can review the Town holdings.

7. Wetlands. A forestry minimum impact notification was received from Brian Cutter for work on land of E. Damon, tax map 411, lots 24 and 25.

8. NHACC Annual Meeting. Marlene, John and Betty attended and reported on the workshops they went to. It was agreed that the guest speaker was interesting but irrelevant.

9. Biosolids. John reported on various meetings and correspondence, primarily between the Community School and RMI, concerning the proposed reclamation of Ambrose Bros. pits using sludge and short paper fibers. The reclamation is still tentatively scheduled for the spring and negotiations are ongoing.

Marlene announced a meeting scheduled for Nov. 15 in

Concord that would feature a number of nationally known experts on biosolid spreading. She will attend.

10. Brox Gravel Pit application. John brought this application to the planning board because they are the regulatory/permitting authority in Tamworth.

While talking with Nat Steele, John found out that Mia Gannon, the planning board representative for TCC, is no longer on the board. It was agreed that she should be replaced.

11. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Conrod, pro tem for  
Betty Steele