

Tamworth Conservation Commission
Tamworth, NH 03886

Selectmen

APR 14 1998

DRAFT MINUTES - MEETING - April 13, 1998

PRESENT: Kris Bontaites, John Mersfelder, Charlie Townsend, Betty Steele
Robert Griffin

1. Minutes of last meeting approved.
2. Treasurer's Report. Charlie reported \$12,092.16 in the Conservation *Fund*. This does not include \$4.40 balance due from 1997. John gave Charlie the bill for the remainder due: on dues to N. H. Assoc. of Cons. Com. John now has the past treasurer's records, which are not in too good order, and will bring them in.
3. Program. Kris said she could do a talk on black bears, which are beginning to cause some problems. John will do publicity for this when Kris lets him know the date. It would be at the Town House. John said refreshments could be served.
4. Members. Bob Griffin was at the meeting because of his interest in the Commission. Nat Scrimshaw is also interested in membership, and John will ask him to the next meeting. There was discussion as to asking Selectmen to change Marlene's membership from alternate to full.
5. Land Protection. Diana Davison, inheritor of Harry Welch property and executrix of his will, has contacted TCC as to donation of property off Depot Road, bordering on Bearcamp River, 13½ acres. Kris said it was good wildlife habitat. It is surrounded by the Straw property.

VOTE I - To notify Diana Davison that TCC would be glad to accept the property subject to the right of way being legal and to the approval of the Selectmen. (moved by Betty, seconded by John).

6. Dredge & Fill'. Application for a farm pond on David Farley property, off Route 16, near where old Rte 16 turns off by sandy beach. Robin Rancourt, the contractor was **present** for this discussion. He had notified Neilly Lanou, of Choc. Lake Cons. Found., and she felt there was no problem. Work to be done in August, dry season. Fertilizer for seeding not of too great concern. Pond is excavation of a seepage area, and would actually be two ponds, a smaller one below the larger. John had visited the site with Robin.

VOTE II - To write the Wetlands Board to recommend approval of this application. (Moved by John, seconded by Charlie)

Kris will notify the Wetlands Board.

7. Wetlands Matters. Kris asked John to be the point person for this, and he agreed. He will **keep** Kris abreast of these matters.
8. Easement - Jean Porter Rogerson property on Mill Brook, on opposite side of Hollow Hill Road from her house. It was agreed TCC would be interested to work with her and explore the matter further, and to write to her to that effect. There was discussion of the effort involved in monitoring easements and felt this could be decided on a case by case basis whether to accept for the Town or to involve some other organization involved in easements. Chris has agreed to help some with easements and perhaps to get others to do so also.

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9. Land protection, Gallagher property. Betty reported this was for sale, and there was some indication it would be developed. It is owned by Sally Gallagher, but the sale is to be handled by her son Parker. It was felt the public had a concern as to access to the ledges by wood road, and use of the open ledges. As far as Betty knows, and as far as Sally knows, access to this has never been cut off, and it has seen steady use. Betty's family owned the property from 1891 until it was sold to the Gallaghers around 1931. Betty left a message for Parker to call her to talk about this, but he hasn't returned her call as yet. It was agreed it would be good to have an easement on the ledges and access road. Sally is in favor of this, but she said Parker was not. Nat Steele, Planning Board chairman, has said the whole top ridge of Sage Hill is relatively flat and there are no regulations to prevent development there. It was agreed that Kris would ask for a legal opinion as to public right of way on wood road, either by asking Nat Steele to request it from their lawyer member, Ken Cargill, or from Town Council. Nat is familiar with the long time use of the area, whereas Ken may not be. Kris will let Betty know the legal status. Sally has advised Betty should talk with Parker rather than someone he didn't know.
10. Trails. Betty had monitored all the trails, except the impassable Spur Trail in Big Pines, had written a summary of work needed, and a detailed description, including how often a chain saw was needed. There is much work to be done, but most of it involves lifting the many branches off the trail. It was felt Big Pines Trails should be marked "Closed" beyond the bridge, until they can be cleared. Betty said Remick Natural Area Trail should be closed until such time as it can be adequately marked. The other matter needing immediate attention now is the bridge, on TCC land, on Jackman Pond North trail - it needs stabilizing. It is only a temporary bridge, put in last summer. A permanent solution is needed here. Kris will talk with Chris Conrod about this. Kris and Charlie will look at the Loop Trail in Big Pines, where the only extensive work needed is the top section. John will work with Alan at the next meeting to see about the box for Big tines, and a new one for Black Spruce. A problem is that the new brochure published last summer describes all the trails as passable. Betty felt that as much clearing as possible should be done between now and Memorial Day weekend.
11. Eiosolid Committee. John reported a committee had been formed at the March meeting, Paul King, chm., Allen Earnhard, sec., Marlene Ostrowsky and Mia Gannon. John will serve on the committee and Alan Smith has requested to be on it.
12. Conservation District meeting. Marlene and John went, Subject was Risk Assessment.
13. Meeting of Regional Environmental Planning Program, sponsored by Lakes Region Planning. Kris and John went to a meeting. There is to be an area REPP meeting on May 2nd, town of Ossipee as host, assisted by Green Mt. Conservation Group from Effingham. For this meeting each town in the region is requested to list areas of historical, cultural and environmental importance, from which a map would be generated. REPP may reconstitute some kind of land protection with state funding, similar to LCIP. Kris and John will hold a meeting Thursday, April 23, at 7:30 at the Town House (assuming it is available) and they will call key individuals as well as have a notice in the newspaper to invite people.

14. Landfill Committee. Charlie reported the landfill had been mapped to see where a transfer station can be put. There is little land available as most has been filled. On April 22 the committee will meet with Douglas Kemp of DES, and the Selectmen to discuss the transfer station and closing of the dump. Five acres is needed for the transfer station. Lou Wiesner, of the committee, feels the Town should have a compacter. Maybe the Town would have a transfer station in a year - funding will be requested at the 1999 Town Meeting.
15. Scenic Rural Byways, a project of the N. H. Dept. of Tourisu., Kris has been involved with this, but felt the project, as proposed, probably would not protect the byways as it would tend to attract many more people to the byways. The committee, on which Kris serves, after its next meeting, will probably report to the Selectmen to say it is: not in favor, and appears to be an exmple of pressures, when more rightly it should be a subject of long range planning.
16. Lakes Region Planning Committee annula) meeting will be June 22, at 7 p.m.
17. Members. Robert Griffin said he would like to be involved with TCC. He will study the material TCC has given him. Kris asked him to come to the next meeting (May 11, 7:30 pm), and he and TCC can proceed from there. TCC nominates members, and Selectmen approve. He has been a year round resident since November. His address of Macgregor Hill Road, P O Boxx 112, Chocorua 03817, tel. 323-8329. He is interested in the outdoors, and in trails. He has retired from teaching - language, writing, and athletic coaching; he now works part time for L L Bean. His wife, Kit Baldwin Griffin; teaches in Steep Falls. He has been involved in the Chocorua area for many years - Kit is a member of the Balch-Bowditch family. The house they live in was purchased from a cousin, Sam Newsom.

Betty Steele

Draft Minutes to be approved at the May 11th meeting.