

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Special Meeting, January 22, 2020
Location: Town Hall, Annex room

Attendees: Scott Hecker, Cathy Joly, Honey Hastings, Lincoln Geiger

Missing: Sean Radcliffe, Carol Mamczak, Adie Krulis

Guests: Connie Kieley

Started at 7:04 pm

1. Honey moved that minutes from the January 9, 2020 meeting be approved. Lincoln seconded. All in favor.
2. Planning board proposal regarding affordable housing: we have many questions and unaddressed concerns after the hearing. Sean was concerned that we weren't consulted about this proposal, concerned about concentrated septic systems for duplexes; Lincoln explained that septic systems are regulated by the state. Proposed Planned Residential Development (PRD) has 30% open space; Scott asked if there is a definition of "open space" in Temple's documents. If not, is there one from the state? What is the proposed buffer around the PRD - grass? trees? Having a boundary around PRD is not what wildlife need - consider "wildlife corridor". Lincoln said this needs more discussion about where buffers would be, with regards to rivers as well. There is no guarantee of affordable housing with what is proposed. Most residents who spoke at the hearing wanted more study into this matter, more input. Scott printed the related comments from the Temple Facebook page; roughly 50/50 for and against the proposal, but not all Facebook members live in Temple. Connie mentioned the need for more education. Honey felt that because we already released our response letter, we can't add to it. Since this is a ballot issue, Scott thinks Con Com should have a position - for or against; Lincoln suggested that the Con Com wants more input on this. Scott and Lincoln will write about this in our newsletter, essentially that the process was rushed, more research and study is needed, and we do not support this now. What is important to Con Com here is wildlife, water, we want the town to grow in a way the whole town is happy with. Proposed changes would not be good for hunting. Lincoln suggested bringing the aquifer maps to Planning Board meeting and see where PRDs would NOT be good over important aquifers.

3. Newsletter: Connie suggested the newsletter be mailed on March 2nd, sent to the printer the prior week. Best case we will do a mailing, worst case (if budget isn't approved) we'll put the newsletter on town website and print a few to have at library, offices, town meeting, etc. *We should be ready to give our final approval of the newsletter at our next meeting on Feb 12. Cathy will write about water testing and will reach out to Linda Bollinger about her hikes. Scott and Lincoln will work on an article for the front page.* All articles should be sent to Scott and Connie. We should mention in newsletter that we will be sharing info on the town website; *how to offer folks to sign up for copies of our electronic newsletters?* Signup sheet at town meeting, email our gmail account?

The group adjourned at 8:16 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Annex.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.