

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, June 10, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Attendees: Sean Radcliffe, Scott Hecker, Carol Mamczak, Cathy Joly, Honey Hastings

Absent: Lincoln Geiger, Adie Krulis

Guests: Mike Madden, Eric Foley

Started at 7:05 pm

1. Scott moved to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting, Sean seconded. Roll call vote: Honey yes, Sean yes, Carol yes, Cathy yes, Scott yes.
2. Town Land Research Committee - Scott and Honey attended the last meeting. Tim Fiske led a walk on the Holt and Skladany properties, discussing where they might build the new highway department; proximity to the center of town is a priority. The land is very rocky, with wetlands intermixed; there is concern about salt and other contaminant runoff potentially reaching wetlands. The Holt land is not quite big enough on its own; they need two acres cleared. Accessing the Skladany property between the Holt and Kullgren properties would require a large culvert to cross the wetlands. Alternatively, accessing from General Miller Highway is difficult because of the curves in the road and the need to locate the driveway away from existing homes. Carol asked about the purpose of this committee, and Honey explained that they will eventually make recommendations to the Select Board. Scott said they talked about adding a trail on the Skladany land. Their next meeting is June 27th, Saturday morning, to walk the parcel next to Temple Elementary School and the 4 lots on Rt 45. *Honey encouraged Con Com members to attend and share input on our trail ideas for the lots on Rt 45.*
3. Town Forest - Eric and Scott finished the trail work yesterday; it's a nice, wide trail and will not need much maintenance for a while. Carol and her husband, Jeff, blazed part of the trail; Scott said the blazes look great - excellent height, color, and size. Carol said that stencil did not work with the paint, she painted freehand with a small brush. She still needs to blaze the swamp loop, and we had discussed using blue paint for that; Carol has plenty of yellow paint left and the paint is expensive, so she didn't want to purchase a different color. Honey suggested using a different shape and everyone agreed. Scott noted that the swamp loop has never had horses on it, and he would discourage that use. Scott and Eric cleared the trail to the ant mound; a big log blocks the way to the mound, and Scott thinks we also need to fence off the area and add signage. The person who Scott originally contacted about the ants was willing to help make an educational sign and give a presentation to the Con Com and/or the town; *Scott will follow up with him.* The Lone Pine sign needs to be moved. Eric took a picture of the maple sugaring trash,

there is quite a lot of it. Eric also found a small chestnut seedling, likely sprouting from the roots of a dead tree, and will flag it. The two large tupelo trees are against the stone wall, and a smaller one is near the newly cleared section of trail. Scott wants to create a trail map, and he used Map Your Walk to create a very detailed map, but is not sure how to use the resulting image; this application can also save pictures along with their location on the trail. Eric previously used Garmin GPS and uploaded the data to create a map. Sean said that some applications create a “vector image”, so you can zoom in to see more terrain detail while the line denoting the trail remains the same size. *Sean will create and share a sample map.* Mike uses the free version of All Trails to map his property; there is a professional version which might provide the photo feature that Scott wants. Mike shared the output of 4 different mapping applications (attached). *Scott will email Ben Fiske about the sap lines and trash.*

4. Town Forest Plan - Eric gathered advice about what to charge for updating his original plan; some suggested charging per hour and others gave a ballpark range. Scott suggested going through the table of contents now with Eric to determine which sections need to be updated or added. Eric shared the following items that he wants to update: 1) The “forest health” category to reflect changes that have happened. 2) Stewardship goals and objectives - we need to discuss if these have changed. 3) Whether we want or need to do another inventory; Eric was intending to create a timber inventory (noting valuable lumber trees, pulp, firewood), but if we have no plans for active forest management, then there is no need to update the inventory. Note that this update involves more cost because it requires Eric’s time walking the forest as well as office time to determine the monetary values. 4) Add a note that the property is under easement. 5) Change stewardship recommendations; the original recommendations were basic and vague, and now they should be more detailed with a timeline of when things could/should be done. 6) Update the map of trails. 7) Since this plan was part of Eric’s college capstone plan, he would remove language related to that. 8) Update the tree and plant inventory. Scott and Eric suggested that *all of us read Eric’s original forest plan and come up with a list of questions to discuss at our next meeting; send your questions to Eric prior to the meeting. Eric will email the old plan to the group again.* Carol suggested that forest health may impact our goals and stewardship objectives for the forest. Eric noted that Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is now in the Town Forest; it is not widespread, mostly on the smaller hemlocks. The Adelgid is an aphid that wraps itself in a cottony substance and feeds on hemlock needles. The forest is fairly free of invasive plants at the moment. *Eric will work on the wooden signs and will move the Lone Pine and Swamp Loop signs when he’s repainting them.* The Con Com originally had signs on the property - many signs were ordered but where are the extras now? *Eric will email Dave and John about the extra signs.* Eric contacted forester Allan Oxman about this forest plan update and discovered that Allan oversaw the 1980 harvesting work; Allan created a map back then showing the different habitats

within the forest. Eric will meet with him in July in the Town Forest and is interested in learning more historical information.

5. Honey shared that the town is offering a webinar on NH Right to Know Law on June 24. Carol and Honey will attend, and other Con Com members are welcome as well.
6. Trails for People and Wildlife webinar - Carol shared that the webinar was interesting and informative. She learned about the term “corridor of influence” which describes the area on both sides of a trail in which various species are impacted when people walk on the trail. The webinar also discussed considerations such as wetlands, special habitats, rare species, and slopes. Most interesting was a demo of *GRANITView* which shows areas of high, medium, and low impact across NH; trails should be located in the lowest impact areas. The Chris Weston property has a lot of wetlands, which should not be impacted; Eric explained that it used to be a big beaver pond but there are no longer any beavers. Mike suggested that a trailhead be located on the corner of Howard Hill Road and Rt 45, heading in from the back side via a pasture that slopes down to the pond. Carol shared that it may be a good birding place; maybe a short trail to a bench that overlooks the wetlands. Eric and his Dad put in the original trail which went along the road, through a pine forest, across a stream, through a field, to the edge of the wetlands. A forest plan/inventory would be good to have for each conserved property.

The group adjourned at 8:27 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

Attachments:

- 1) *Carol's GRANITView sample*
- 2) *Mike's trail mapping app samples, attached as separate PDF*

Layers

Quick Tools ...

Standard GRANIT Layers

Filter Layers

Filter

☒ Environment and Conservation

☒ Conservation and Public Lands

☒ Wildlife

☐ Wildlife Action Plan

☒ Planning trails for people and wildlife

Low Impact

Moderate Impact

High Impact

Very High Impact

Very High Impact

Very High Impact

Very High Impact

Very High Impact

Very High Impact

☐ Invasive Plant Management Priority Areas

☐ Regional Landcover and Land Use

☐ Imperious Cover - Best Available Data

