

# TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, April 13, 2022

Location: Town Hall

Attendees: Sean Radcliffe, Scott Hecker, Mike Madden, Cathy Joly

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger

Guests: Russ Wilson, Alan Marsh

Started at 7:06 pm

1. Marsh Property on West Road: Scott attended the previous night's Select Board meeting to share our concern about protecting water quality. As we expressed before, even though the Marsh property is not directly over an aquifer, it is at the top of a hill surrounded by an aquifer, with streamlets running down the side of the hill into the wetlands below. Alan expressed that he also wants to protect the land and water; he commissioned a geologic study of his property last year and shared the results with the Select Board. The Con Com has not seen this report, and we would like to review it. Alan shared information about his machines on the property, including that he has mostly cable-chain machines and a few hydraulic machines, the latter are more prone to leaks than the former, many of his machines contain no fluids, and he has spill kits on site and attends to spills. Alan also shared that he tested his well water recently and found no petroleum-related contaminants. We discussed how to go forward, and ideas included conducting a variety of soil and water tests to create a baseline for yearly testing going forward, first on the soil around Alan's machinery, and then on the streamlets, surrounding wetlands, and abutters' wells, with the understanding that there are other sources of petrochemical-related pollutants (and this could be the impetus for education about topics such as properly disposing of used oil and other toxic products). Other ideas included Alan sharing a written plan for pollution prevention, and Alan sharing the results of his geologic study with the public to help allay fears. Russ, who has been licensed by NHDES to run a transfer station, inquired about creating a catch basin to catch any potential contamination; Alan is already planning to implement this. To summarize, we continue to be concerned with water quality and believe that prevention is key, not to mention much cheaper and more realistic than mitigation.
2. NHDES Dredge Permit request for #26 Dam: They are dredging the outlet, where the water rushes forth from underneath the dam. Scott visited the site. Scott moved

to approve the expedited minimum impact wetlands permit application. Sean seconded. All in favor.

3. New Members: Russ shared his varied background and interest in conservation. Scott moved that we recommend Russ Wilson to join the Conservation Commission as a full member. Sean seconded. All in favor. Russ will send a letter of interest to the Select Board via email to BoardAssistant@templenh.org.
4. Skladany Land Site Visit: Scott walked the land with Tim Fiske to consider a different location for the Highway Dept. Tim proposes using the northernmost driveway on the Holt property, crossing the stream at its narrowest point [6' wide] with a precast cement culvert [5' above the water, not obstructing the stream] and continuing to a dry area on the property. There are lots of boulders and possible ledge, and it appears to be far away from aquifers. The town has enough money to commission another hydrology study for that location. We have no other action at this time.
5. Approval of Minutes: Scott moved to accept the March 23, 2022 meeting minutes, Mike seconded. All in favor.
6. Rt 45 Property Site Visit: Lucille and Peter Heikkila own 11.3 acres, which abuts the Chris Weston property, and they are interested in selling it to the town. According to tax records there are 3 acres of farmland and 8.3 acres of wetland. The owners have invited us to a site visit on April 24th at 2pm - meet at the Chris Weston parking lot.
7. Natural Resource Stewards Inventory Update: Sean is in discussion with Rose Lowry and Murray Collette about the plan for going forward.
8. White Property on West Road: Sean will be walking the White property for its annual inspection.

The group adjourned at 9:26 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

*Italics above indicate tasks to be done.*