

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, August 9, 2023

Location: Town Hall Annex

Attendees: Scott Hecker, Chair; Sean Radcliffe; Cathy Joly, Secretary; Clay Lennartz, Marie Lennartz, Mike Madden

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger, Russell Wilson

Guests: Tim Fiske, Sherry Fiske, Chris Wells

Started at 6:05 pm

1. Approval of Minutes: Clay motioned to accept the July 12, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Scott seconded. All in favor.
2. Land Conservation Update:
 - a. Chris Wells of Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC): The Barry West property on Old Peterborough Road is under contract with a donation agreement. The property is 68 acres, forested, with no structures, and a woods road that continues onto the Temple Mountain State Reservation. The survey is in progress and due in the next month.
 - Total costs are expected to be approximately \$30,000 (see attachment); much of the cost is for PLC's staff time, closing costs, and for the perpetual stewardship and legal defense fund. PLC is asking for funding assistance from the Conservation Commission (CC), as much as we can cover is appreciated. Remaining funding will come from fundraising. To clarify, PLC's annual operating budget is separate from these project costs. Funding for their annual property walks come out of their annual budget, and they appreciate the help of local volunteers with monitoring.
 - The property will be open to the public for all access except ATVs. Hunting will not be allowed, and there will be no formal parking area. The property boundary will be tagged, and PLC will put up one of their signs. The woods road is already walkable; visitors will see state blazes when they reach the edge of the property. If we want to work on trails in the future, we need to let PLC know.

- PLC is concerned about ATVs traveling along the road; gates will help deter them and are included in the project estimate. Snowmobile trails are generally allowed if they are already in place and maintained by a local club.
- Initial discussion included that residents may be unhappy with the lack of hunting and parking. Creating additional trails is probably important. The PLC will own the property, and the CC has funded similar projects in the past. *We will walk the property on August 17th at 5:15pm; Scott will let Chris know.*
- Thanks to Chris for presenting the details of this project. We appreciate his thoroughness and transparency.

b. Tim and Sherry Fiske: The appraisal numbers are known, however they are awaiting the final paperwork.

- This is a wonderful opportunity, along with Gail Cromwell's conservation easement, because both properties abut existing conservation land. There are existing trails that connect to the Heald Tract in Wilton.
- Sherry spoke with Monadnock Conservancy (MC) a few months ago and they seemed interested, though possibly concerned about raising the funds. We suggested the next step is for Tim and Sherry to engage with Anne McBride of MC. Generally the CC offers funding based on the easement quote provided by the land trust. They will consider having the same surveyor survey Fisk Hill and Gail's property to conserve costs.
- Sean moved to publicly state that the Conservation Commission will assist with funding of the conservation of the Fisk Hill property, the amount to be determined at a later date. Clay seconded. All in favor except for Scott who abstained, as an abutter.

3. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Update: We continue to receive permission slips for the field surveys.

4. Conservation of Lot 7-35: Mike is continuing to contact surveyors and sharing a drawing of the boundary that needs surveying; they all have long lead times. One surveyor responded that a 3-lot subdivision was needed, with a quote of \$30,000.

5. Water Testing Presentation: *Sean will reach out to Pete Caswell.*
6. Harvest Festival Application: Scott requested a table informally; *Cathy will submit the form as a followup.*

The group adjourned at 7:46 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Annex.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

Attachment:

1. PLC West Project