

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, January 12, 2022

Location: Town Hall

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

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger

Guests: Eric Foley, Tim Fiske

Started at 7:02 pm

1. Approval of Minutes: Scott moved to accept the December 8, 2021 meeting minutes, Mike seconded. All in favor. Scott moved to accept the December 30, 2021 special meeting minutes, Mike seconded. All in favor.
2. Holt property: Scott and Tim met to discuss our concerns from the December special meeting, and Tim provided additional information. Regarding the hole that Kent dug, it was a test pit for the leach field and the high water table was 18" down; the proposed leach field bed will be about 6' above that level. The raised portion of the lot will be taken down 6', removing the foundation and existing leach field, so the final level will be roughly the same as the seep. Tim intends to leave the seep area unaffected and place a protective berm around it. Once the lot is leveled like this, surface water can easily be directed where it's best. Tim has spoken with the EPA and they suggest that as long as the surface is gravel (i.e. permeable) and the number of trucks is low, the small amount of contaminants will be cleansed by the soil. Runoff can either be directed everywhere to dilute any contamination, or directed to a single basin to allow for easy cleanup of spills. Tim expects to use gravel as the surface covering, and will build the same style salt shed as the existing shed so there will be minimal salt spillage. The well that supplies the village well is a drilled well, about 400' down, and surrounded by an area of deep gravel. Tim mentioned that there is a salt filtering system in the pump house, which drains the salty water right next to the well. Discussion returned to our previous concerns about the possible connection between the seep and the nearby stratified drift aquifer, and Tim wondered what would happen to the seep once the lot was leveled. These unanswered questions can only be addressed by a hydrogeologist. *Tim agreed that the next step is to bring in a hydrogeologist to evaluate the site and provide recommendations before continuing with the current plan.*
3. Conservation of Lot 7-35: No update.

4. Town Forest Forest Plan: Eric provided an invoice for his updates, and *Mike will process the invoice.*
5. Kiosk at The Ledges: It looks beautiful! Carol met with Barbara Harling to view photos of Abbie Kendall Fish, so we can post Abbie's picture on the kiosk. Eric has a photo of himself at The Ledges when he was little and will send that to Carol. We will consider installing a similar kiosk at the Chris Weston property later this year.
6. Natural Resource Inventory Update: The estimate for updating the NRI is \$12,000. *Sean will reach out to Henry to ensure they are willing to divide this work over multiple years based on available funding, then Sean will follow up with Christine Robidoux.*
7. Land Conservation Strategy: Mike printed a large version of the town's tax map and highlighted the already conserved properties. This is very helpful for viewing potential wildlife corridors and large tracts that might be linked together. We will continue this discussion at the next meeting.
8. Water Testing: We will offer water testing this spring. At the February meeting we will set a date, so we have sufficient time to place a notice in the town newsletter and notify residents online as well.

The group adjourned at 8:36 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.