

# TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, July 20, 2022

Location: Town Hall Annex

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

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger

Started at 7:08 pm

1. Approval of Minutes: Scott moved to accept the June 8, 2022 meeting minutes, Sean seconded. All in favor.
2. Land Conservation Strategy: We discussed edits to Mike's flyer and agreed to add our three primary conservation goals: protecting watersheds and wetlands, expanding existing conservation areas and connecting trails [for the benefit of humans and wildlife], and conserving farmland. Then we'll develop our strategies to achieve these goals. Scott spoke recently with Barbara DeVore of Mason's Conservation Commission who shared that there are many grants available for trout and agricultural projects. *Mike will edit the flyer* and at our next meeting we'll make a plan to mail the flyer to residents shortly before the Harvest Festival on September 25.
3. Town Forest Plan: Eric shared his latest version, and we discussed how to link to more pictures when someone is reading the plan online. One idea is to link to a photo album for the Town Forest, and Scott suggested that Flickr albums are free for everyone to view with no requirement for viewers to create an account. The conversation expanded into a discussion of how the Con Com can communicate more interactively with the public, similar to Scott's FaceBook page "Nature of Temple." We want to share info about upcoming events and also encourage folks to post their own nature pictures. We agreed that this should be a FaceBook group/Instagram account that people can join, similar to the Temple FaceBook group. *Scott will start implementing these ideas.*
4. Marsh Property on West Road: The judge has agreed to review the history of the case, allowing the abutters to be interveners.
5. Chris Weston Trail: Russell moved the painted planks that Peter Colpitts provided (thank you!) into place over some of the wet areas on the trail.

Mike has asked Kent to mow the whole field before he puts his mowing equipment away for the season, and that led to a discussion on the frequency of mowing. We want to balance 1) preserving the important plants that are growing there, with 2) the need to keep the field from reverting to forest. We settled on mowing the path once a year, and mowing the field once every 3 years. Russell offered to bring a small chipper to clean up the woody debris along the sides of the trail, and direct the chipped material onto the trail to build it up.

6. Natural Resources Inventory Update: Last night the Planning Board accepted the reduced estimate from Jeff Littleton of Moosewood Ecological and said that we can proceed with Phase 1 of the NRI. The Planning Board will budget the additional money needed for Phase 2. Sean moved that we engage Moosewood Ecological for the NRI update for Temple, Mike seconded. All in favor.

The group adjourned at 8:33 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.