

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, June 8, 2022

Location: Town Hall Annex

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

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger

Started at 7:05 pm

1. Approval of Minutes: Mike moved to accept the May 11, 2022 meeting minutes, Russell seconded. All in favor.
2. Marsh Property on West Road: No judgement has been issued from the May hearing. The hydrology report which the Marsh's commissioned is available at town office; Scott viewed the report and shared that it did not provide a thorough evaluation of the potential environmental impacts.
3. Update on Martin project: The project has been dropped.
4. Natural Resources Inventory Update: Sean attended the prior evening's Planning Board meeting to follow up on the possibility of working with Wilton. That idea is no longer being pursued. With this knowledge, *Sean will follow up with his contacts regarding narrowing the focus of the update to reduce costs.*
5. Town Forest Plan: Eric Foley shared his revised draft of the Town Forest Plan. *Scott will add more of his own pictures and generate lists of birds and wildlife. Russell noted that there are old vehicles of interest in the forest and offered to take pictures and write about their history to send to Scott for inclusion in the Plan.* The Temple Town forest sign was vandalized and Scott has been contacted by hikers unable to find the entrance. *Russell offered to make a metal sign with welded letters.* Thank you all for your work in the Forest and additions to the Plan, making both more enjoyable and interesting!
6. Conservation Easements: Scott met with Chris Wells, the director of the Piscataquog Land Conservancy. They are very active and doing great work, engaging their communities with a variety of conservation-related events. Interestingly, Temple is within their 23-town area because

Temple's watershed drains into their area, and they are interested in working with us on easements. *Scott will continue his conversations with Chris.*

7. Chris Weston Trail Work: We cancelled the work day at the last minute due to forecasted storms, yet Russell headed out anyway and pulled the old bridge out of the stream on the north trail (thank you!), so the stream is flowing clearly again. The bridge needs new planks on top, and *Scott will look for boards in his barn.* On the south side, Russell suggested adding a simple bridge at the flow-over spot, and Sean suggested creating an alternate path further along on the trail to bypass the really wet areas. *Russell and Mike will meet there and lay out the path around the field, and then Mike will contact Kent about mowing the path.*
8. Land Conservation Strategy: Mike envisions a two-prong strategy. The first effort is educating Temple residents with his flyer on conservation easement Q&As, while reminding folks that we're actively working on conservation and available to answer questions. We should print the flyers to hand out at the Harvest Festival, September 25. *Members will review the flyer and send edits to Mike before the next meeting.* The second effort is looking at Temple's currently conserved areas and considering how we might link these areas together, both to create wildlife corridors and human trail systems. Wouldn't it be cool to walk from the Ledges to the top of Temple Mountain and the rest of the Wapack :)
9. Honey Hastings notified Scott that the crabapple trees by the old schoolhouse are being overgrown by bittersweet and she asked for help removing it. *We will work on them possibly this coming weekend.*

The group adjourned at 8:38 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.