

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, November 9, 2022

Location: Town Hall Main Room

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

Absent: Adie Krulis

Guest: Christine Robidoux, Gail Cromwell, Mike Darnell, Chris Wells, Connie Kieley

Started at 6:04 pm

1. Presentation by Chris Wells, Executive Director of Piscataquog Land Conservancy: They started out conserving land to create the New Boston Rail Trail, then expanded to cover the Piscataquog River watershed and now the Souhegan River and Nashua River watersheds. Some of their area overlaps with Monadnock Conservancy (MC) and they happily coexist, passing projects between them depending on who has time in their schedule. They were awarded National Land Trust accreditation in 2017 so they are held to the same standards as MC and NH Forest Society, thus the level of “safety” is the same, and they monitor easements annually as the others do. Because they are smaller, they can be more nimble and responsive; they have a staff of 4 and rely heavily on volunteers for their property monitoring. As of Dec 2021 they have 134 protected properties, almost 9,400 acres; they own some properties, others they hold the conservation easements. They are working on an easement now in New Ipswich on the Temple border. When asked how they determine the conservation value of a property, Chris explained that they evaluate each project’s merits beyond its natural resource value. They are taking on both forest projects and active farms. The stewardship fees for holding the easement are set aside for any future easement issues that require legal action. Thanks to Chris for an inspiring and helpful presentation!
2. Approval of Minutes: Scott moved to accept the October 12, 2022 meeting minutes, Sean seconded. All in favor.
3. Excavation Application: The public hearing is coming up soon for the updated version. The Planning Board agreed with Mike’s suggestion for the form: to clarify that the Conservation Commission is signing to

acknowledge receipt, not approval. During the Planning Board's review process, there will be an opportunity for the Con Com to offer comments.

4. Natural Resources Inventory Update: Sean shared that the Phase 1 work is underway and he expects an update in early December. The next step is to determine the budget for Phase 2. The range is from \$3,000 to \$6,000 and the difference represents the number of days spent in the field gathering data about the town's natural resources. We will be meeting with Jeff (the consultant who is contracted to do this work) to discuss what field research should be included in Phase 2. More data will result in a more useful NRI update in general, however Jeff may need fewer hours to gather the data that we agree upon. Sean moved that we tell the Planning Board to budget for \$6,000. Mike seconded. All in favor. The contract for Phase 2 will not be completed until the budget is accepted at Town Meeting.
5. Thanks to Lincoln for mowing the front field of the Chris Weston property! *Scott will ask Chris Connolly about mowing the back field, and Sean will ask Mark Salisbury about mowing the triangle field.* We're budgeting \$1200 for mowing of the 3 fields.
6. Temple Harvest Festival: The day was very well attended, and the conservation map was a big hit! We spent a lot of time chatting about conservation corridors for wildlife, hiking, connecting trails.
7. Scott brought a copy of Linda Bollinger's Welcome Book for Temple. What a lovely resource! It's currently available in printed form at public spots in town.

The group adjourned at 8:14 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall Main Room.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.