

# TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, October 11, 2023

Location: Town Hall Annex

**Attendees:** Sean Radcliffe; Cathy Joly, Secretary; Mike Madden, Clay Lennartz, Marie Lennartz,

**Absent:** Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger, Scott Hecker, Russell Wilson

**Guests:** Connie and John Kieley, Bruce Kullgren, Kent Perry, Randy Martin

Started at 6:06 pm

Sean chaired the meeting in Scott's absence.

1. Conservation of Lot 7-35: Many thanks to Connie Kieley and Tim Fiske for gathering historical data related to the conservation of this parcel (see attached). And thanks to the Historical Society members who attended our meeting so we could all work together on this. We viewed the documents and noted that there are no restrictions mentioned on the deed. The Conservation Commission's intent for this property is to protect it, to provide habitat for pollinators and have it mowed once per year, and to allow and encourage public access.
  - a. Kent shared that the Historical Society would like to hold events next to the schoolhouse, in which case they would want an area mowed around the building for attendees. He also mentioned that they would like to create plantings around the building. We all agreed that these usages are reasonable for the property and should be written into the easement.
  - b. Bruce spoke with Pete Caswell who has concerns about maintenance of the shared well on the property. In the future we may need a larger pump house, for example if a water filtration system is needed. Mike has spoken with Monadnock Conservancy (MC) to ensure that the easement language will allow the town to do whatever is necessary to maintain the well and related pipes. John explained that when repairs are needed, the town would simply notify MC as a courtesy, and then perform the repairs.
  - c. We have not yet received a draft easement from MC. John suggested that 1) Pete share his recommendations for the size of a future well house, and 2) the Historical Society share their requests about events and plantings. Mike will share these with MC as soon as possible for incorporation into the draft easement.
  - d. Once we receive MC's draft easement and the survey drawings, we will review them with the Select Board and then hold a public forum. Afterwards we will integrate public input into the final easement, and we hope to complete this by the end of the year.

- e. Mike has reached out to Chris Connolly about mowing the field this fall, but the land is currently too wet to mow.
2. Approval of Minutes
    - September 13, 2023 Minutes: Sean motioned to accept the minutes as written. Clay seconded. All in favor.
  3. Land Conservation Update:
    - a. Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) property on Peterborough Road:

At the previous meeting we voted to offer funds towards conserving this property. Connie shared that expenditures from the Conservation Fund must receive “permission” however it is unclear what that permission entails. Is it a public hearing? We also need to clarify if there is a difference between contributing toward the purchase of conserved land versus contributing toward the expenses of land conservation. This particular property has been gifted to PLC. RSA 79 explains that the town can grant the Conservation Commission power to spend the funds without seeking outside “permission”, however the town of Temple has never voted on this. Mike will reach out to Barbara Richter for clarification.
    - b. Tim and Sherry Fiske Project: No update.
  4. Harvest Festival/Water Testing Recap: About 20 residents picked up a test kit at the festival, and only 2 were brought back for Sean to deliver to the lab. Sean noted that this was a very unusual year. Folks did appreciate being able to pick up a test kit at the festival without having to make two trips to the lab, and some mentioned that they would bring their sample directly to the lab. This is also valuable because Sean is able to help everyone who has questions.
  5. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI): Jeff has completed the field surveys and will attend our November meeting to share results and set the date for the public presentation in the new year.
  6. Highway Department Location Committee: No update.
  7. Land Conservation Strategy: Discussion included anticipating opportunities as large parcels change ownership in the future. At our November meeting we will consider a warrant article to place a conservation easement on Skladaney, either the whole property, part of it, or all of it plus the Holt property. We will reach out to the Select Board first to determine if there is support for this.

8. Rt 45 Trail Easement: Mike had corresponded with Mrs. Green about the possibility of the trail crossing the tip of her property, however he did not receive approval. We discussed whether an easement is needed, especially since every option Mike and John explored has ultimately been a “No”. The 50’ wide strip of land is already a non-buildable lot. Can the trail simply cross the stonewall without stepping on abutters’ land?
9. Marsh Property: The ZBA is meeting again soon.

#### New Business

1. 2024 Budget: Mike will attend the Budget Advisory Committee meeting on October 25th. He will propose keeping the budget the same, and Mike is hoping to get a revised mowing estimate from Chris Connolly before then. We are purchasing a kiosk this year and will purchase another kiosk next year so that we have one at Chris Weston and the Triangle Lot 7-35.

The group adjourned at 7:55 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Annex.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

#### Attachments:

1. Minutes of 2022 Temple Town Meeting
2. Minutes of 2021 Temple Town Meeting
3. 1984 Temple Annual Report
4. 1985 Temple Annual Report
5. Pages 1-3 of Deed for Triangle Lot 7-35