

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, April 8, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Attendees: Sean Radcliffe, Scott Hecker, Carol Mamczak, Cathy Joly, Honey Hastings

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger

Guests: Eric Foley, Mike Madden

Started at 7:00 pm.

1. Scott moved to accept the minutes of the March 2020 meeting, Sean seconded, all in favor.
2. Newsletter update: printing costs for 800 copies was \$174, postage \$117.27, for a total of \$291.27. Connie Kieley paid for this initially and has been reimbursed.
3. Water testing update: Sean had contacted ChemServe in Milford to verify that they could handle our bulk testing and could supply kits. Sean did pick up the kits and let them know that our testing was on hold at the moment. *Carol will find out when the Harvest Festival is this fall*, and we will plan to hold our water testing the following week.
4. Town Forest update: Scott suggested postponing all efforts to get community volunteers to work in the Town Forest given the current COVID-19 situation. Scott and Eric visited the forest last weekend to consider rerouting parts of the trail; they found areas where water was flowing down the trail, and other areas that were very muddy. They partially flagged new routes, and along the way found a chestnut tree and 2 large tupelo trees! *Scott encourages Con Com members to get out there and see how it looks. Eric and Scott are willing to clear the small brush and trim branches along the new sections of trail to accommodate walkers and horseback riders. Sean offered to help with clearing as long as Scott and Eric flag what needs to be removed.* Eric suggested rerouting the trail to make a full loop within the forest, rather than ending on the road; not sure yet how to make that happen. Honey suggested that Eric and Scott make the final determination about where to route the trails since the Con Com members cannot be together in the forest. Carol motioned to authorize *Eric and Scott to make the decisions for the new trail layout*, Honey seconded, all in favor. *As Con Com members work in the forest, please document with pictures and email the pictures to the group to keep everyone up to date.*

Scott is interested in putting up stakes and strings around the ant mounds to keep folks from disturbing them and consequently getting bitten; everyone in agreement. Scott mentioned the metal trash, car parts, etc that are near the trail, also trash from maple sugaring; discussion included concern about children getting hurt, that parents would be

responsible for keeping their children on the trail, adding a warning note on the trail map or a sign along the trail, and whether we could remove all the trash or at least the smaller trash. *Honey suggested that Scott revisit the area and evaluate.* Scott found maple sap lines extending into the Town Forest in multiple places, as well as lots of piles of new tubing on the stonewall border. *Scott will call or write Ben Fiske and ask him to take down the lines and clean up the trash; before the next meeting, Scott will verify that this has been done.* Carol and her husband picked up a lot of trash along the Town Forest road frontage. She offered to paint blazes when the trail rerouting is finished, and shared pictures of sample blazes using 2-3/4" roller and 3" foam brush, 4-5" in length. Honey suggested Carol's examples were a good proportion; we need templates so that all blazes are the same size: we agreed on 2x4" blazes. *Carol will make templates.* Mike offered to share the US Forest Service recommendations about blazes via email to the group. Eric recommended a phone app, Map Your Walk, to use when the trails are finished so we can map the final route. Aiming to finish this work by end of May.

5. After Town Forest work is done, we will work on Chris Weston trails. Mike followed the existing trail to wetlands, but couldn't figure out where to go from there. Eric said there used to be trails and a footbridge, but they haven't been maintained. Scott spoke with George Willard about his land nearby, at the corner of Howard Hill [where you park to walk to the Ledges]; George said people were welcome to walk on his property. Is it possible to make a loop trail with the White Ledges and George Willard's property?
6. Conservation properties: Eric mentioned that his parents are considering getting a conservation easement on their 47 acre property - at the bottom of the hill beneath White Ledges. Exciting! Dave Repack documented the process for conservation easements; *Sean has this document and will forward it prior to our next meeting.* Honey suggested the Monadnock Conservancy (MC) is also a good source of information, and Sean indicated that they want to be involved in guiding us. *Sean will ask if someone from MC is willing to give a mini presentation and Q&A at our next meeting.* Honey suggested that Scott call someone at MC and ask what he needs to get up to speed on this.
7. *Cathy will add to agenda for next meeting: elections and membership. If anyone can find a list of members with membership dates, please circulate to group.* Website doesn't list any dates except for Cathy and Scott. Mike said the dates are in the town report.
8. Eric is back in Temple for the time being and has the time to update his Town Forest plan from 2012; discuss hiring Eric to do this at our next meeting.
9. Scott created a Facebook page "The Nature of Temple" with the goal of posting every day about a nature topic, offering others to contribute as well. Scott posted this on Temple's Facebook page; ultimately we could connect this with what the Con Com is doing.

The group adjourned at 8:23 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.