

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, February 12, 2020

Location: Town Hall, Annex room

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

Absent: Adie Krulis

Guests: Vince Mamone, Camilla Lockwood, Keith Charlton, Connie Kieley

Started at 7:06 pm

1. Lincoln moved to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2020 special meeting, Honey seconded, all in favor.
2. Town Planning Board (PB) meeting update: Honey explained the PB had info from town counsel regarding warrant article, and they voted to eliminate the first section regarding duplexes; the second and third sections will remain on the warrant article regarding the relative size of accessory units and the density bonus. The PB wanted to make changes to the other two sections, but they couldn't given the timeframe, so town counsel suggested they could pass the ordinance now and revise it next year. Continued discussion from last meeting; Scott still wants a definition of "open space"; narrow buffers surrounding a development should not be considered "open space". Lincoln suggested that "open space" be clarified via a town conversation and have parameters to give it teeth. Sean asked what is our role with this, what is our end result of talking about this: we decide on our position and document in newsletter. We fully support affordable housing, but this warrant article isn't clear, needs more work, needs more input from Con Com and the public. We will start with our previous letter, which was addressed to the PB, and modify the first and last paragraphs to address Temple residents; Scott will email letter to all of us for individual review.
3. Newsletter: Scott wanted clarification about how often we meet per month. Lincoln explained that we expect to meet once a month, and we will announce any special meetings as needed. *In the newsletter we should suggest to residents that they sign up on the town website for Conservation Commission alerts to be notified of additional meetings and events (Connie?).* Carol said that the town newsletter will have an article about how to sign up for these alerts. *Sean does check our gmail account (templeconcom@gmail.com) and will set it up to autoforward to Con Com members.* What is needed for newsletter? 1) *Letter to public re zoning ordinance, titled "Zoning amendment concerns" (Sean/Honey/Group)* 2) *Updated ant story (Scott)* 3) *Article about trail work in the town forest this spring*

(Cathy) 4) Add our email address to the newsletter - templeconcom@gmail.com (Connie). We will get articles to Connie by Monday noon, and final review before Feb 26th.

4. Water testing: *Cathy will ask if Pete Caswell can do the presentation for this year's water testing event.* We will hold a special meeting in two weeks to finalize the details of this event.
5. Keith Charlton is retiring at the end of the year and would like to help more. His father in law is a soil scientist; he has a lab setup and can do full soil analysis. He has equipment to take soil samples 18" down. Sean suggested that this would be an interesting addition to water testing. Keith will consider being a Con Com alternate member.
6. Chestnut Tree Project update: Vince has received the seeds packed in peat moss and is waiting for spring. These are seeds from trees that show Chestnut Blight tolerance: they are fully American Chestnut, not crossed with Chinese Chestnut; parent trees have blight on them but they are continuing to grow. In late March/April, Vince will plant seeds in containers, in June he will plant them out on his farm, and hopes to find other homes for a few of them. Vince will host an educational workshop at each step of the process and document the process with pictures. Goals for this year: Vince will first demonstrate the ability to turn seeds into a tree in the ground; secondly Vince will share skills via these workshops to teach people to do the same thing; thirdly, Vince will share info so more people are getting involved and growing the trees, trying to get as many trees growing here as possible. Vince will be at our March or April meeting with an update. Lincoln suggested making compost tea and spraying it all over trees; this covers the tree with friendly microorganisms and makes it hard for bad organisms to take hold.

The group adjourned at 8:50 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.