

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, September 9, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

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

Absent: Lincoln Geiger, Adie Krulis

Guests: Eric Foley

Started at 7:31 pm

1. Note that there were technical difficulties logging into Zoom at the beginning of our meeting. Roll call attendance: Scott Hecker, Sean Radcliffe, Mike Madden, Carol Mamczak, Honey Hastings, Cathy Joly, and guest Eric Foley.
2. Camilla Lockwood requested a clarification in the July minutes. Scott moved to accept the minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting as amended, Sean seconded. Roll call vote: Sean yes, Mike yes, Honey yes, Carol abstaining, Scott yes, Cathy yes.
3. Eric requested a correction about the ants in the Town Forest. Honey moved to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2020 meeting as amended, Scott seconded. Roll call vote: unanimous.
4. Town Forest update: Eric re-painted all the wooden signs and put them back in better locations along the trail. He noticed a few spots along the trail that were confusing and placed small piles of brush to keep folks on the trail. Eric spent time exploring the remainder of the forest and found more tree species (apple, serviceberry, and white oak) and additional chestnut trees. The biggest chestnut tree at chest height is 6.2” in diameter. Scott also walked the forest recently and said the new signs look fantastic; he is still concerned about the spots with boulders that might be difficult for horseback riders, and we are open to their suggestions. Trail blazes look good as well; Eric found a few spots that additional blazes could be helpful when walking the trail in reverse order; *Carol and her husband will add the blazes.* Scott shared that John Kieley contacted him about an old kiosk from Ted and Carolyn’s trails in Greenfield; *Scott will get more information from John.* Scott noted that a bear dug up all of the ant mounds, but the ants seem okay. Eric noticed other bear activity in the forest. Eric did not find any remaining maple sugaring trash - our thanks to Ben Fiske for cleaning that up. The sugaring taps are still in the trees in the Town Forest and we discussed what to do. Ben had requested to speak with us at tonight’s meeting, but since we had technical difficulties and started late, we will invite Ben to join us at another meeting. *Scott will email Ben asking that he attend our next meeting.* Cathy noted there was poison ivy at the trail’s entrance, where

the trail is very narrow; *Eric and Scott knew there was some and will check how widespread it is*; eradication methods were discussed, including vinegar/salt, herbicides, and manual pulling.

5. Town Forest Plan: We discussed how to pay for Eric's contract to update the Town Forest Plan. Scott noted that we have almost enough funds in this year's budget; Eric noted that he is okay being paid in two installments. Honey noted that if we pay Eric from the budget, it comes out of tax money, which is not ideal given the pandemic and town's loss of income. At the last meeting we had decided to use the LUCT fund to pay Eric because it has been used in the past for easements, appraisals, and the aquifer study. Honey explained that updating the Town Forest Plan is part of our stewardship responsibilities, similar to the aquifer studies, so it should be paid from the LUCT fund. Discussion ensued about how to pay for various things; Sean summarized that the costs of doing our job via activities like improving trails and creating our newsletter come out of our yearly budget. Honey moved that we pay for Eric's contract from the LUCT fund as this is consistent with the aquifer studies; Carol seconded. Roll call vote: unanimous. Scott asked how to get a check to Eric; Honey said the town needs a bill, with the chair's signature on the bill, and the [draft] minutes showing this vote. *So when Eric provides the the updated Town Forest Plan, he will provide an invoice at the same time. Mike will contact Peter Allan, the treasurer, to alert him that this invoice is coming.*
6. We welcome Mike as our newest commission member!
7. Temple Land Research Committee: the committee requests input from us about the town-owned lots on Rt 45 for potential trail access. Sean explained that the original goal was to connect the trail on John Kieley's land to the Chris Weston lot, however we found no smooth way to do that: it either requires walking along the road which has sharp corners and no walking path, or walking along the back of those lots which is excessively steep and rocky. Discussion included taking a 50' or 35' swath of the southernmost parcel for a trail easement, complications of meeting road frontage for remaining lot(s), creating safe access from the curvy road, and the value of conserving old trees and large boulders for the public to enjoy. Sean made a motion to *notify the Temple Land Research Committee that the southern lots would be valuable for public access to the trail to Temple Mountain over the Kieley easement.* Honey moved the motion, Mike seconded. Roll call vote: unanimous.
8. Vivian Wills' trail: Honey asked whether the proposed trail is within a Monadnock Conservancy easement. It is, so Honey suggested that we contact the Conservancy to keep them updated and also to ask if they have information about accessible trails. There was discussion about who from the Conservancy is monitoring this property as well as the Town Forest. Eric would like to join the monitor for the Town Forest walk. *Scott will contact the Conservancy about both of these matters.*

9. *2021 Budget meeting: we discussed what amount to ask for next year. Honey suggested we ask for the same amount as this year, with the assumption that next year is back to normal. Mike asked what our 2020 budget covers - main items are NHACC membership and our newsletter. Honey moved that we ask for the same amount, while explaining that expenses were down this year because of COVID. Sean seconded. Roll call vote: unanimous.*

The group adjourned at 9:01 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.