

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, February 10, 2021

Location: Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

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

Absent: Lincoln Geiger, Adie Krulis

Guests: Eric Foley, Jeff Jenson, Keith Charlton, Ben Fisk, Anthony Datel

Started at 7:03 pm

1. Roll call attendance: Scott Hecker, Mike Madden, Carol Mamczak, Sean Radcliffe, Honey Hastings, Cathy Joly.
2. Scott moved to accept the January 13, 2021 minutes, Carol seconded. Roll call vote: Scott yes, Mike yes, Carol yes, Sean yes, Cathy yes, Honey yes.
3. Sean moved to accept the February 1, 2021 minutes, Scott seconded. Roll call vote: Scott yes, Mike yes, Carol yes, Sean yes, Cathy yes, Honey yes.
4. Town Forest, Ben Fisk: Ben shared his concern that an article in the Monadnock Ledger about the February 1, 2021 Select Board meeting contained inaccuracies. Ben explained that he wanted to pay the tapping fees from previous years, and he apologized that he had not followed up with the Commission about this because he was expecting us to send him a bill. Sean and Honey recalled that the Commission was expecting Ben to make the payments to the town without our involvement, so we never followed up with Ben, either. *Ben and Mike will work together to create an invoice for Ben* for all of tapping fees owed, and the invoice will note that the money should be deposited into the conservation fund. Eric noted that Ben had not tapped the 50 trees in the Town Forest this year; Ben said he would be tapping them shortly.
5. Commission Membership: Jeff Jensen and Anthony Datel joined the meeting and are considering joining; *Scott will follow up with them after the meeting.* Honey Hastings will retire at the end of her term in March. *Cathy will reach out to Adie* about renewing her Alternate position which expires in March of this year.
6. Forest Plan for the Town Forest: Scott shared that the payment for Eric's work will come out of the 2021 budget because it was too late to submit for 2020. *Scott and Mike will work together to get the payment to Eric.* Eric is currently incorporating edits from members. Scott referenced the list of permitted activities in the town forest and noted that we need to check what uses are granted from the conservation easement and the

warrant article. Eric suggested using the old kiosk to show what's allowed and what's not. *Mike suggested that we need mini kiosks for each property; he found some plans and will price it out. Sean will forward copies of the easements for the Town Forest and the Chris Weston property to members; each of us will make a list of activities to include and exclude based on the language in the easements.*

7. Conservation Properties: The open space maps on templenh.org were created by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) and need to be updated. Sean noted that some land is conserved privately and we may be unaware of it. Scott mentioned one example: the 70 acre Sargent Wildlife Sanctuary. *Sean will follow up with SWRPC to get updated open space maps.* Mike suggested identifying areas to conserve, such as expanding wildlife corridors, and making a strategy for conserving land and approaching landowners; *Cathy will add this to the agenda for next month.* Jeff asked about fundraising and mentioned Francestown's nonprofit Land Trust that fundraises each year towards conserving land. Honey explained that our conservation funds come from the land use change tax: when land comes out of current use, we get 50% of the taxes paid. Jeff suggested a regular mailing to ensure that our goals are on everyone's radar, especially as people are deciding what to do with their property. Sean asked if someone from the Francestown Land Trust could talk to us about their history and process. Jeff also wondered about the sometimes mutually exclusive goals of making the town friendly and welcoming to newcomers, yet maintaining the town's rural character. Sean explained that while our master plan describes the goals of our residents, there are many privately-owned large parcels of land, and a lot depends upon what those landowners do with their land. Honey noted that property values are going up based on the type of internet available. It was reiterated that we need to create relationships with large land owners. Lincoln and John Kieley have been working on it over the years.

The group adjourned at 8:36 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.