

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, July 12, 2023

Location: Town Hall Annex

Attendees: Scott Hecker, Chair; Sean Radcliffe; Cathy Joly, Secretary; Clay Lennartz, Marie Lennartz, Russell Wilson

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger, Mike Madden

Guest: Connie Kieley

Started at 6:06 pm

1. Approval of Minutes: Gail Cromwell shared the correct spelling of Fisk Hill. Scott motioned to accept the June 27, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Sean seconded. All in favor. Scott motioned to accept the June 14, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Russell seconded. All in favor.
2. Land Conservation Update: Tim and Sherry Fiske were unable to attend tonight so they expect to attend the August meeting. Chris Wells of Piscataquog Land Trust will also be presenting at the August meeting.
3. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Update:
 - a. Cathy submitted the invoice for the NRI mailings for Scott to sign.
 - b. Cathy and Mike updated the NRI spreadsheet with the latest permissions received from landowners.
 - c. Sean shared that Jeff created an iNaturalist project for Temple as part of the NRI work, and anyone can join: bring up iNaturalist on your mobile device, click on "Projects" and search for "Temple Biodiversity Project", then click on the project and click "Join". You can view all the observations made by people who have joined.
 - d. Jeff is working on the estimate for a Bioblitz as well as the Planning Board's requests of overlaying tax parcel maps on the NRI maps plus a Natural Resources Audit.
4. Conservation of Lot 7-35: Mike shared his update via email, attached. The land will be subdivided into 3 separate lots: the municipal building, the conservation area, and the schoolhouse.

5. Highway Department (HD): Clay is a member of the new committee whose charter is to investigate options and costs if we keep the HD in the current location.
 - a. Kent offered the committee a tour of the existing location. Kent prefers keeping the HD in the current location and shared his list of required upgrades: 4 heated 20x40' bays to keep salt from freezing on the equipment during the winter, plus an additional non-heated building to house the grader.
 - b. There is a new non-toxic hydraulic fluid available that Temple will begin using; no hydraulic fluid is stored on site, rather a contracted company replaces the fluid. The fuel tank is inside a building which has enough capacity to hold any leak. Vehicles may still leak diesel if they are sitting outside. Municipalities have to follow all the DES regulations - there are no waivers granted. Kent declared that the existing location is compliant with current regulations.
 - c. We are concerned that the existing location isn't designed for a spill. There is an existing basin to catch spills, however with the sandy soil any leaks will drain immediately into the ground before reaching the basin. There must be an environmental survey and engineering design, as was done for the Holt property. The new committee does not have funding for this.
 - d. Connie shared Tim Fisk's concern that the existing location will not have enough space in the future to house new equipment. She pointed out that even if Temple's population remains stable, there will be more through-traffic using our roads, requiring more road maintenance and upgrades. How are other towns of similar size storing their HD equipment and materials?
 - e. In summary, to compare the existing location and the Holt site, residents need to be presented with an apples to apples comparison. Clay suggested that this new committee needs to work with the Land Use Committee to determine which criteria to use when evaluating each site, such as: safety, environmental issues, cost, convenience, and comfort of workers.
6. Marsh Property: The upcoming Zoning Board hearing was cancelled.

The group adjourned at 7:27 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Annex.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

Attachments

1. Email from Mike Madden with updates
2. Invoice for NRI mailing expenses