

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, June 14, 2023

Location: Town Hall Annex

Attendees: Scott Hecker, Mike Madden, Cathy Joly, Clay Lennartz, Marie Lennartz, Sean Radcliffe, Russell Wilson

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger

Started at 6:25 pm

Sean Radcliffe chaired the meeting. Scott Hecker joined via Zoom.

1. Approval of Minutes: Mike motioned to accept the May 10, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Clay seconded. All in favor.
2. Land Conservation Strategy Update: Mike is waiting for a response from Anne McBride regarding the easement for the triangle, lot 7-35. Scott will reach out to Chris Wells of Piscataquog Land Trust to present information about their Temple conservation project at our special meeting on June 27. Generally, if the Conservation Commission (CC) contributes funds to a conservation project, then we require public access on the easement.
3. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Update:
 - A. Jeff Littleton and his team at Moosewood Ecological has begun the second phase and Sean forwarded the contract to the Planning Board (PB) for signature.
 - B. Sean presented the draft NRI at the PB forum last week. The PB asked if the tax parcel maps can be overlaid on the NRI maps; Jeff said he can do this for an additional fee.
 - C. Jeff shared the list of parcels which he wants to survey as part of the NRI field work, so the CC will mail permission forms to the property owners with a self-addressed stamped envelope for the owners to return: Jeff requires written permission before surveying private property. *Cathy will customize what Jeff provided and forward it to CC members for edits. Mike will create a spreadsheet of addresses for each parcel and Cathy will take care of printing and mailing, keeping track of expenses. Mike will print another large map so Scott can highlight Jeff's parcels of interest on the map.*

- D. Other residents may wish to offer their property to be surveyed. We will wait on coordinating this until our July meeting. Ideas include placing the instructions and permission form on the CC webpage. *Scott will start creating Facebook posts about NRI and interesting species to watch; Sean and Russell will help with the posting.*
- E. *Sean will ask Jeff about how to initiate the BioBlitz, what it will cost, and what will it provide us?*
4. Highway Department (HD): Scott will speak at the special town meeting next week on behalf of the CC and the Temple Land Use Committee. He will talk about the importance of water quality, monitoring, and environmental protection on whichever site is chosen. The design for the HD on the Holt property was reviewed by a hydrologist with regards to mitigating future spills and protecting the nearby aquifer. Scott spoke with Pete Caswell about testing the Holt well and other nearby wells prior to construction to get a baseline for future monitoring; the water should be tested for all products that are used by the HD. If the HD remains at its current location, a hydrologist will need to be consulted and well testing done in the surrounding area; a spill occurred in 1990. Note that many wells around the center of town already show elevated salt levels from road salt.
5. Town Forest Plan: Cathy will forward the final plan to Carol to put on the CC webpage.
6. Marsh Property: We read the findings that were posted on the town website, that the judge sided with the town. We have not heard any update.
7. Water Testing: Sean has 30 water test kits from ChemServe. Sean received a suggestion to use a different lab, and there are labs in Swanzey, Manchester, and Concord. However the greater distance makes it difficult to deliver the filled kits within the 24 hour window. We will offer the kits at Temple's Harvest Festival and schedule pickup the following Sunday. *Sean will reach out to Pete Caswell about scheduling a talk during that in-between week.*
8. *Scott will reach out to Chris Wells about coming to our special meeting on June 27th.*

The group adjourned at 7:58 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Annex.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.