

# TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, June 27, 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

Guests: Tim Fiske, Gail Cromwell

Meeting started at 6:05 pm

## 1. Land Conservation Projects

A. Tim Fiske presented about placing a conservation easement on Fisk Hill. Tim is working on this project with his sister Sherry Fiske and Tim's son Greg; Tim spoke on their behalf. The tax map shows the property as 180 acres, however Greg estimated with the use of GPS that it is over 200; they are seeking an appraisal now.

- Discussion of easement holders included Monadnock Conservancy (MC), who Sherry has already contacted; NH Forest Society, whose forestry practices at the Heald Tract are concerning; and *Piscataquog Land Trust (PLT)*, whose information Scott will share with Tim. PLT has fewer resources than MC, however PLT is lean and relatively fast given that MC has a backlog of projects. There is no need to worry about PLT's long term stability; by law land trusts must have a backup plan so if they dissolve, the easements would be transferred to another land trust. Chris Wells, PLT's director, will be a guest at our August meeting.
- When planning the easement, a small area around the landowner's home is usually carved out, and the easement applies to the remaining land. The property owner works with the land trust to determine what types of public access the easement will allow. Some land trusts have specific requirements regarding hunting, public access, forestry services, etc. so the property owners should consider how they want the land to be used in the future.

- Tim intends to allow public access; options to consider for access are through the Heald Tract, General Miller Highway dam, Tim's bridge, and Gail Cromwell's and Lisa Beaudoin's properties. Tim currently uses vehicles to aid in clearing the trails, and he is considering allowing snowmobiles but not ATVs.
- Tim is seeking assistance with easement costs from the Conservation Commission (CC). Before determining this amount, we will need to know the amount requested, and how much financial assistance the chosen land trust will contribute.
- Tim and Sherry plan to attend the next CC meeting in July.

B. Gail Cromwell presented about placing a conservation easement on her property of 100 acres. Gail's property abuts Fisk Hill, and she is already in conversation with MC. Gail is not currently asking for financial assistance from the CC.

C. We are very excited about both of these easements because they abut each other and also the large Heald Tract in Wilton, as well as Lisa Beaudoin's property. This will create a large block of conserved land, preserving wildlife corridors and natural habitats, and allowing for connecting hiking trails.

## 2. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Update:

D. The permission forms have been mailed to the landowners which were on Jeff Littleton's list. *Cathy will move the landowner spreadsheet to Google Sheets so Jeff can see the updates in realtime, and Cathy will check with the town offices for correspondence. Cathy will write up an invoice for expenses and send to Scott for his signature, and Mike will share the CC line item budget with Cathy.*

The group adjourned at 7:14 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Annex.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.