

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, May 10, 2023

Location: Town Hall Annex

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

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger, Russell Wilson

Guest: Jeff Littleton of Moosewood Ecological

Started at 6:03 pm

1. Approval of Minutes: Sean moved to accept the April 12, 2022 and April 19, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Mike seconded. All in favor.
2. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Update: Jeff explained that the watershed map in the updated report, specifically the location of the Stony Brook watershed, was prepared by the state of NH and delineated based on streams and tributaries. The next phase of the update consists of field work to find unique characteristics such as special habitats, vernal pools, grasslands, wildlife, rare species, and invasive species, referencing resources from NH Fish and Game, NH Natural Heritage, and eBird. Jeff and his team will explore state and town owned land (including Chris Weston, Town Forest, White Ledges, Skladany), roadsides, and private properties whose owners give written permission; they will be walking the properties and taking pictures, nothing else. Locations of rare species will only be shared with the landowners where the species are found, and the final report will not include any mention of the private properties. The team will photograph their findings to add to the report, with the goal of educating residents about what they're seeing as they hike around town. Jeff and his team are currently analyzing areas in town that are of special interest and they will provide us with a list of properties they would like to view, so we can reach out to the property owners to request permission. Jeff has provided the permission form for landowners to grant or withhold access and suggested that we send it along with a SASE. Jeff will also set up an iNaturalist site for the Town Forest to share what they find, and give residents a deeper understanding of the land. This field work will continue through the fall to catch migration data, then the data will be added to the NRI and finally presented to the town. *Scott will share the Town Forest Plan with Jeff and with Carol for posting on the Con Com webpage.*

3. Related to the NRI, Jeff's team can provide iNaturalist training and lead a town BioBlitz. This can happen during or after the NRI update to deepen the community's involvement. Jeff will provide us with more details.
4. Highway Department: The Con Com has concerns about the wetlands surrounding the existing garage location and the potential for pollution from a fuel/oil spill. We will reach out to Barbara Richter of NHACC for guidance on the steps needed to evaluate expanding the existing garage location.
5. Trails: Many thanks to Eric Foley for clearing the brush around the blueberry bushes at the White Ledges!

The group adjourned at 8:04. pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Annex.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.