

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, November 10, 2021

Location: Town Hall

Attendees: Carol Mamczak, Sean Radcliffe, Scott Hecker, Mike Madden, Cathy Joly
Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger

Started at 8:06 pm

1. Approval of Minutes: Scott moved to accept the October 13, 2021 meeting minutes, Sean seconded. All in favor, Carol abstained.
2. Conservation of Lot 7-35: Carol emailed a summary of her meeting with Anne McBride (attached). Anne shared that a lot line adjustment was not necessary; the conservation easement can be placed on part of the property. The existing survey is insufficient so a new survey is needed. Monadnock Conservancy is unable to give us an estimate yet because they first have to vote on accepting this project, and there are other projects in their queue before ours. At the budget committee meeting, Mike was asked for an estimate for this work. Sean suggested that we get an estimate for the surveyor now, since the survey has to be updated regardless of who will hold the easement. *Carol will ask Anne if this is acceptable.* It is too late to request funding from the Moose Plate program for 2022.
3. Town Forest Forest Plan: Scott walked the land again recently and was struck by the great habitats there and how important this forest is for educational purposes. He will connect with Eric when Eric returns. Carol uploaded the PDF and Word versions of the Forest Plan onto Google Drive. Mike asked for an additional \$500 in our budget to cover Eric's work on this next year.
4. Chris Weston Trail: We will have a trail work day on Saturday, November 13 (after visiting the Holt Property noted below). The main tasks are cutting through the mountain laurel on the southern trail and planning/making a bridge on the northern trail.
5. Kiosk at White Ledges: We were awarded \$1000 from the Temple Anniversary Fund to use on the White Ledges kiosk. Mike has ordered the mini kiosk from Timber Frame Vermont and it will be ready mid December. To prepare for installation, Mike asked Kent to dig the hole and leave a pile of stone, which Kent has done - thank you! Mike will put in sonotubes and backfill so we're ready to

drop in the kiosk. Mike asked *Carol to make laminated sheets for the kiosk* including a map, the history of the land, the geology. Scott suggested creating a map that details the hills and mountains that are visible from the top of the Ledges. How would we identify them?

6. Holt Property: Scott shared an email (attached) about a seep on the Holt property which Tim Fiske pointed out. This is in an area which the surveyor denoted as wetlands. *We will have a site visit* on Saturday, November 13, 9:00am at the Holt property.
7. Natural Resource Inventory Update: Mike shared that Christine Robidoux was at the budget committee meeting and said that the Planning Board added \$4000 to their budget to cover working with SWRPC for the NRI update. Sean reached out to Henry Underwood at SWRPC and forwarded our existing NRI. In order to give us an estimate, Henry needs to know what we want updated, however we need to know the cost before deciding what we want updated. Henry showed Sean what SWRPC created for Greenfield and Sean was very impressed with the level of detail. Everyone agreed that our NRI is rather sparse. *Sean will forward Greenfield's NRI to the committee.*
8. Heald Tract: Carol attended a guided walk through the Heald Tract with the NH Forest Society. In the Summer 2019 harvest area, Carol didn't see much regrowth and was told that this was not expected for a couple of years. The area where the apple orchard was cleared is now filled in with wildflowers, and she was impressed with their efforts at getting rid of invasives in the remaining orchard. The mountain laurel is also growing back and providing rabbit habitat. Carol commented on the interesting contrast between this land managed by the Forest Society, with their experimentations of different techniques, and the adjoining Sheldrick Forest, managed by The Nature Conservancy, with no human touch.
9. NHDES Dam Improvements: Cathy attended a Zoom meeting to discuss this project. The original 1961 dams were designed for a 100-year rainfall event of 6" in 24 hours, but now the dams need to be able to handle 8" in 24 hours. The issue is that the spillways have the potential to be eroded at high water flows, so the engineers will primarily be looking at widening spillways and/or increasing the height of the dams. NRCS will accept comments at any time. The timeline is March 2024 to complete the economic impacts, benefits & cost and the watershed plan, then 2025 will be spent in the design phase, and finally construction will commence in 2026.

The group adjourned at 9:19 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

Attachments: 3

1) *From Carol re Anne McBride:*

10/29 meeting and walk of property with Anne McBride, Monadnock Conservancy

Lot 7-35 – not necessary to subdivide, approx. 5+ acres for easement
Conserve everything, prohibit anything that becomes a different use; she felt there is conservation value and agreed with the “gateway” significance

Pump House – need to understand electrical and purpose (Bill Ezell says it supplies water for village)

Schoolhouse #6, town owns land, may not need an exception; plan for upkeep of building and driveway; consider what happens if it should burn down

Include stone walls in easement.

Monadnock Conservancy process:

1. Staff votes yes/no to proceed
2. If yes, a project worksheet is developed that documents conservation value
3. Goes to lands committee; they visit site and then vote yes/no to recommend
4. Goes to board who vote yes/no
5. Start on project; includes title search, surveyor, research known environmental hazards within a radius (not sure of distance)
6. Easement is drafted that preserves buildings and defines unique terms beyond maintenance of structures and driveway
7. Baseline documentation report is done at time of easement draft
8. Town attorney reviews and signs documents

After board approves, a surveyor is contracted; could take 9 – 12 months.

Anne planned to research an existing survey. I planned to find out about the pump house.

Don't write anything into the easement that is not enforceable.

Follow-up email from Anne: “ I did find a survey (Plan #14454), however it doesn't include bearings and a distance for the stone wall. The surveyor was William Bean who is deceased.”

2) *From Scott re Holt Property:*

Hi Tim,

I took the attached photos of the location on the Holt property where there is a spring-like seep that you asked us (the Commission) to look at. We will discuss the issue a bit at tonight's meeting, and then set up a formal visit with other members soon.

Scott



3) From Carol re Heald Tract:

Hi all,

Since Heald Tract is on the ConCom agenda for next week, I am sending out some maps obtained from Gabe Roxby, Forest Society field forester. I attended their recent tour and have had email exchanges with him. Since a small portion of Heald is in Temple, and a larger portion borders on Temple, this may be of interest to you. Numbers on the one map were places where the group stopped for discussion. I will have a very brief follow-up at the meeting.

Regards,

Carol



