

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, October 12, 2022

Location: Town Hall Main Room

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

Absent: Lincoln Geiger, Adie Krulis

Guest: John Kieley, Connie Kieley, Tim Fiske

Started at 6:06 pm

1. Conservation of Lot 7-35: John provided a slide presentation; please see his slides for details. Summary of discussion follows: John has been working with Monadnock Conservancy (MC) on this and they are interested in holding the easement *without* the schoolhouse and parking lot. Scott suggested the property could be a model pollinator meadow with an educational trail; John advised keeping the easement language broad enough to encompass this, or allowing town to define the usage. We can request that the Select Board assign management of this property to the Con Com, similar to Chris Weston and Town Forest. Next steps: 1) Create a draft easement; *John has the MC model easement to start with, and will draft language specific to the property* (description of property, uses, flora and fauna, water line being maintained, mowing it once a year at the end of the year). *Members will review draft and send comments to John.* 2) Flag the perimeter and excluded area to help residents visualize the property that will be conserved; *Tim and John will do this.* Thank you John and Tim! 3) Determine costs for survey, legal fees, and MC fees so we'll know the complete cost prior to town meeting, intending that funds will come from Con Com, not taxes. *Scott will follow up with possible Pollinator Meadow grants.* 4) Develop warrant article for Town Meeting and request Select Board's approval. 5) Assuming Town Meeting bestows approval, this should be finished in summer of 2023.
2. Trail Easement on Rt 45 North: John continued his slide presentation. Summary of discussion follows: this easement is intended to serve as a connector between the Chris Weston trail and John Kieley's trail, eventually connecting to the Wapack trail. John reviewed this with MC, and because the town is trying to protect access rather protecting the land, a "trail easement" is better than a conservation easement. Note

that at the 2022 town meeting residents voted for a *conservation* easement here. MC already holds a trail easement on John's land, although they are unsure about holding this easement; other potential easement holders are State Trails Bureau or Friends of the Wapack. Next steps: 1) John has a model trail easement - straightforward, 2 pages. He will reach out to potential holders. 2) Determine costs - no survey needed but there will be easement costs. 3) Then create two warrant articles: one to ask for a trail easement instead of conservation easement, and one for the trail easement itself. To continue the trail: there is a sliver of land owned by the southeast land owner that abuts the wall where the trail crosses, so we'll need a roughly 10'x5' trail easement. We'll need additional trail easements to reach the Wapack trail, as well as a trail easement to get from Chris Weston's parking lot to this trail. Thank you John for your efforts!

3. Current Easements Update: Sean walked Heather Pratt's property and found no issues. She continues to develop more trails.
4. Excavation Permit Regulations: Mike shared that the Planning Board expects to finalize these at their next meeting. We're questioning why a Con Com signature is required if the committee has no authority to approve or deny the permit. Scott suggested that *Mike talk to Barbara Richter of NHACC. Cathy will forward Barbara's contact info to Mike.*
5. Approval of Minutes: Cathy noted that the time of the next meeting needed to be corrected. Scott moved to accept the September 14, 2022 meeting minutes as amended, Sean seconded. All in favor.

The group adjourned at 7:53 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

Attached: John Kieley's slide presentation