

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes, September 13, 2023
Location: Town Hall Annex

Attendees: Scott Hecker, Chair; Sean Radcliffe; Cathy Joly, Secretary; Clay Lennartz, Marie Lennartz, Russell Wilson

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger, Mike Madden

Started at 6:05 pm

1. Approval of Minutes

- August 9, 2023 Minutes: The minutes were discussed and Cathy corrected the name of Piscataquog Land Conservancy. Clay motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Sean seconded. All in favor.
- Aug 17, 2023 Minutes: Clay motioned to accept the minutes as written. Russell seconded. All in favor.

2. Land Conservation Update:

- a. Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) property on Peterborough Road: Scott spoke with Chris Wells to clarify details: PLC will own the land, and the land is considered conserved even though there is no actual conservation easement.
 - Essentially, the time, effort and cost of a conservation easement is unnecessary because PLC is set up as a conservation organization for protection of land in perpetuity. Even if the PLC were to dissolve in the future, the Attorney General would find similar organizations to take ownership of PLC's land. Similarly, PLC cannot sell the property to anyone except another conservation organization. An additional safeguard is that any changes to PLC's bylaws require approval by the Attorney General. PLC cannot change the property deed without approval of Barry West or his descendants.
 - The deed specifies no hunting and no parking on the property. The PLC will post against hunting. If anyone alerts PLC that hunting is occurring on the property, PLC will reach out to NH Fish & Game for enforcement.
 - Since it is now possible for town committees to receive donations, we can help PLC fundraise part of the cost. Clay motioned that the Conservation Commission offer to contribute \$15,000, to come from the Conservation Fund, toward the PLC's cost of conserving 68 acres at 252 Peterborough Road. All voted in favor.

- b. Tim and Sherry Fiske Project: Scott received an update from Tim. Sherry is working with the Monadnock Conservancy (MC). Tim cannot schedule a surveyor until early spring, and they are working with MC to determine if a survey is needed.
3. Harvest Festival Planning: *Scott will bring signs and natural items to display, the map of conserved properties, and land conservation brochures to hand out. Sean will bring water testing kits, create a poster, and print instructions to hand out with the kits. Sean will also create a post for the town's Facebook page and the website.* Excess kits will be dropped off at library after the festival. Residents should take the water samples the following Sunday, October 1st, and drop off at the Town Hall Annex between 11AM-1PM that same day along with a check. If Pete Caswell is available to offer a presentation about water and wells in Temple, we can plan for Tuesday the 26th in the Annex. *Cathy will schedule the room for October 1.*
4. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI): No Update.
5. Highway Department Location Committee: Clay shared that the committee is working on a high-level list of the modifications needed to bring the current location in line with what is needed, to include "definites" and "nice to haves" as well as environmental concerns. Once that is agreed upon, then they will research solutions. The committee is only investigating the current location, and they have no funding. Clay suggested that it's better to have a committee which would evaluate both properties. Clay also shared that the town's insurance company heard about the safety concerns with the trucks entering and leaving, and is now requiring that a fence be built around the library.
6. Conservation of Lot 7-35: Mike shared via email that he walked the triangle with a surveyor last week and discussed boundaries and options for markers. He invited Monadnock Conservancy but no one was available.
7. Marsh Property: ZBA meeting is later this week.

New Business

1. *Scott will reach out to Lincoln and the Connollys to make a plan for the once-a-year mowing of the Chris Weston and triangle fields.*
2. Cam Lockwood shared an article about the Spotted Lanternfly which is gradually making its way northward. It has reached CT and it causes damage to a variety of fruit and hardwood trees. Sightings should be reported to the

UNH Extension Service. *Cathy will send Carol an informational post for the website.*

The group adjourned at 7:54 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Annex.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

Attachments: None