

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Public Meeting, January 14, 2013

Attendees: Eric Foley, Honey Hastings, Bruce Kantner, Sean Radcliffe,
Absent: Lincoln Geiger, John Kieley, Dave Repak

Opening at 6:10 pm

Minutes of the December 10 and 17 meetings were approved.

Meeting with Ben Fisk to discuss his tap lines in the Town Forest:

Ben opened the conversation by expressing his surprise that 4 1/2 years had flown by since he and the TCC made their agreement. Members shared this same surprise. Ben apologized for not communicating each year as requested in the agreement and said he would definitely stay in touch in the future. Ben currently has 1,165 taps in the TF and will be adding 3,000 this year on an abutting property that adjoins Collins Road. Ben will be routing all of the tap lines so that they run by gravity down through the new property out to a large tank on Collins Road. The tank on North Road will be removed. Ben mentioned that he and his crew have been clearing debris from trails, partly to be of service in keeping them walkable. He has also been donating a gallon of syrup at the Harvest Festival. He is working with the Peterborough Middle School to start running tours of his operation for students and plans to do the same with Temple School.

Members discussed concerns with Ben about tap lines that cross the walking trails. He readily agreed to reroute most of the lines and regularly remove any others after the tapping season. Members also asked about the number and spread of tap lines through the TF, recalling that they had originally thought that Ben would mainly be tapping trees near the road. Ben said there are several large areas where there are no lines, and he had assumed it was okay to make use of so many good trees in the interior. He would like to add a few more taps. Members will discuss this at the next meeting. There was a general sense that Ben will make his operation compatible with recreational uses, and that his good agricultural work in the TF fits in with TCC goals.

Eric, Bruce, and Ben will walk the TF this Wednesday to look at ways to change or raise lines crossing trails, view the new main line, check out the density of lines, and discuss any other issues. Members and Ben agreed to update their agreement this spring.

2013 Budget determination: *Honey made a motion, and Sean seconded it, to ask the Select Board and Budget Committee to keep the same \$600 budget as in 2012. The vote was unanimous in favor.* Members anticipate more activities this year that will need financial support.

Town Forest easement expenses and warrant article: Members requested that John Kieley ask the Select Board to approve Conservancy expenses and prepare an easement warrant article for Town Meeting this March. *Bruce will relay this request to John.*

Eric's Town Forest Presentation: The date is February 11th, 7:00 PM, following the TCC meeting at 6:00 PM. *Bruce will reserve the Annex Room and Honey will make a handout for the Public Hearing on zoning this Wednesday.*

Meeting ended at 6:55 pm.

The next meeting is on Monday, February 11th, at 6:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Bruce Kantner. *Italics* above indicate tasks to be done or motions.