

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Draft Minutes of Public Meeting, January 9, 2012

Attendees: Eric Foley, Honey Hastings, Bruce Kantner, Dave Repak.

Absent: Lincoln Geiger, John Kieley, Sean Radcliffe

Opening at 6:08 pm

Minutes of the December 19th meeting were approved.

Payment of 2012 dues to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions: *Honey moved, and Eric seconded, to pay the annual dues of \$210 for 2012 to the NHACC. The vote was unanimous in favor.*

Bruce will see that the bill is given to Debbie in the Town Office.

Work on the trails at the Ledges: Eric noted that someone has been improving the trails at the Town Forest. None of the TCC members know who has been doing this work. *Bruce will ask Boo at Touchstone Farm if she knows about this.*

General Mill Highway cleanup and volunteers: Dave and Ann will be picking up trash along General Miller Highway between the Town and ball field. Other members are requested to help with the rest of the highway.

Focus Group on Eric Foley's Town Forest Project: Eric posed five questions on the Town Forest, which he modeled and then asked of each TCC member present. He recorded the responses and conversations, which he will later review in light of his three, project objectives: forest health; increased recreational opportunities; and public forest management. The five questions are about each person's experience in the Town Forest, whether it seems healthy, envisioned recreational activities, any threat of invasive species or diseases, and how well the Forest is meeting the recreational needs of Temple.

Members were enthusiastic about and appreciative of Eric's work and questions. They commented on the professional quality of his draft project proposal. Bruce suggested that the Town Forest Project could be a catalyst for drawing other neighboring large parcels and their owners into a cooperative, conservation and education/recreation effort to protect several hundred acres in the north end of Temple. Much of these lands already adjoin the protected 3,000 acres of the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge and Nature Conservancy. Members gave suggestions to Eric about ways to make his project known in Temple and gain support for his recommendations.

Meeting ended at 6:55 pm.

The next, regular meeting is on Monday, February 13th, but members agreed to be in communication about other meeting date options, depending also on Eric's needs.

Please be in touch with Bruce by Saturday, January 21st if you have suggestions.

Minutes submitted by Bruce Kantner

Italics above indicate tasks to be done or motions.