

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING BOARD

JUNE 6, 2012
FINAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: Allan Pickman, Camilla Lockwood, Ken Sullivan, Rose Lowry, Mary Beth Ayvazian, and John Kieley

Call to order by Lowry at 7:34 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Move by Kieley to approve the minutes of 5/16/12 as written, second by Lockwood, and so voted unanimously.

Eric Foley – Presentation on Town Forest: Foley introduced himself and explained that his senior “Capstone” project for his forestry degree is to create a stewardship program for Temple’s town forest. This tract is approximately 40-50 acres and located on the far end of North Road. Foley provided copies of a map and a questionnaire and said he is seeking input from a focus group, to include members of the Conservation Commission and Selectmen as well as the Planning Board. Each board member spoke individually regarding their experiences and impressions of the Town Forest. Topics included:

- Recreational uses: hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, passive (non-motorized) trails, asking Boy Scouts to mark trails and do maintenance, parcel size quite small to offer much recreation, establishing a network of trails throughout the town, widen trails to make more handicap accessible, grow/pick blueberries, save/view visual remnants of agricultural history.
- Health of forest: clean up remaining damage from ice storm of 2008, presence of poison ivy at trailhead, perception as a dark/dense forest and could be opened up a bit, still represents a remote/wild place.
- Invasive species: maple sugar lines perceived as invasive, potential insect damage on hemlocks and ash, potential invasive plants such as bittersweet and knotweed.
- Future: need for good forest management, potential for beneficial harvest which could provide money to town, rare black gum stand needs protection, large abutting tracts could face development at some point and town forest could serve as “oasis”, enhance resident awareness and with increased usage seek management of parking and trash.

Foley thanked board members for their thoughts and comments, and offered to take them on a site walk. When his stewardship plan is complete he will provide copies to the town offices, library, and involved boards. The report will include forestry species, maps (GIS), and streams, plus a forest management program. There was brief discussion about the need to find a balance between ‘medieval’ and ‘commercial’ aspects of utilizing the land. All were in agreement that the overall health of the forest should be a long-term goal. The board thanked Foley for his time and interest, and also expressed its gratitude to a mystery person(s) for recent work done in cleaning and marking trails.

Lincoln Geiger – Hydrology Study: Geiger provided maps and reports from a water study done in 2010 at the request of and funded by the Conservation Commission. He felt the information could be valuable for the upcoming work to revise the town’s Master Plan. Topics reviewed included: fault and fracture lines, location of aquifers, the need to update locations of existing wells and septic systems, possible types and sources of pollution or contamination, and the importance of protecting water resources. Geiger also described the hydrologist’s ability to create three-dimensional measurements of underground water locations. The board thanked Geiger for his presentation, and agreed to keep the paperwork on file at the municipal offices.

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Grant Application: Kieley reminded the board that there is a window of opportunity to apply for a Community Planning Grant, which must be submitted by June 15th. Kieley said he is working with Lisa Murphy of Southwest Regional Planning Commission and the application has been written. Further steps include: 1) permission by the Board of Selectmen to file the application, 2) a letter of support from the Planning Board to the state, and 3) a commitment of cash from the town (maximum of \$625) plus hours. (Time from PB officials and staff would count against the cash.) Lockwood made a motion to agree to pursue the three points listed above, seconded by Ayvazian, and so voted unanimously. A PB letter of support will be created and forwarded to the chair for her signature. Letters of support will also be requested from the Conservation Commission, Temple Economical Energy Committee, and Zoning Board.

Master Plan Revision: Kieley provided a preliminary list of chapters to consider, and wished to add one entitled "Wildlife". Board members agreed to put off working on revision of the Master Plan until the next meeting on June 20th.

Other Business:

-Sullivan asked about the status of developing an application for Large Wind Energy Systems (LWES). Ayvazian said she had created a first draft and would again email it to everyone for review.

-Lowry reminded the board they should talk at the next meeting about setting up a summer meeting schedule.

-Brief discussion about the status of the old brick school and other vacant residences in the village area.

Move to adjourn by Kieley, second by Pickman, and so voted unanimously at 9:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry