

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, October 9th, 2019

Location: Town Hall, Annex room

Attendees: Ult Mundane, Adie Krulis, Sean Radcliffe, Scott Hecker, Carol Mamczak, Cathy Joly, Honey Hastings, Lincoln Geiger

Guests: Swift Corwin, Vince Mamone, Camilla Lockwood, Bart Hunter

Started at 7:02 pm

1. Guest forester Swift Corwin spoke about the process for making a plan for the town forest. He suggested working with a subcommittee of the Con Com, starting with Eric Foley's report, which Swift described as already close to a plan. The first work is to determine the future vision, then plan how to achieve that vision; Swift likes to discuss multiple paths. Ideas mentioned included: harvesting ash trees before they die or alternatively leaving the ash trees in case some have genetics resistant to the ash borer, creating habitat openings, providing educational opportunities, preserving trails, creating old growth areas (especially black gum, and healthy white pines). Corwin charges a fee to write a forest plan; he could update Eric's original plan for \$1500 by the end of January. His fee for harvesting timber is 12% of the gross, unless it is a minimal harvest. We will discuss at next meeting, and consider subcommittee.
2. Vince Mamone talked about the American Chestnut trees; Temple is part of their native range. The Chinese Chestnut is blight-immune, so the American Chestnut Foundation (ACF) crossed Chinese with American Chestnuts and are continuing to back-cross to create trees that are 7/8ths American Chestnut. ACF is looking for members (organizations) who can host tree plantings ("educational planting") and provide community outreach. Vince asked if Con Com would be interested in pursuing this over the next couple of years. It would mean planting 5 or 6 trees, 30' apart; soil needs to be loamy, on a slope, with ledge at least 4' down because the trees have tap roots. Tasks include finding suitable land (about an acre) somewhere that is accessible and visible (ACF has to approve the location), joining the ACF as a "host" (\$40/year for 3 years), putting up an educational sign (\$160), installing tree guards to protect from gnawing critters plus a 5' fence around the tree to protect from deer (\$100 estimate), mulch for the base of the tree (supplied by Temple's road crew?). Once planted, the trees need regular watering: one 5-gallon bucket per tree per week for the first year, then watering during drought the following year. Vince is willing to fundraise for materials. ACF is willing to give

educational talks. Why would we do this? Years ago the American Chestnut was the dominant tree in the forest; it's fast growing, provides nutritious and delicious nuts (for animals and wildlife), and is otherwise disease resistant. All of our trees are under stress, climate change isn't helping; the Chestnut may not survive the changes, or it may be the one that does survive. Also, the Con Com could plant the seeds from its trees and distribute the new trees. Peterborough, Walpole, and Rindge are doing this, plus quite a few towns in VT. This is a multi-year project; we will discuss at next meeting and consider subcommittee. *Sean will ask Paul what our budget is.*

3. Bart Hunter, chair of the Wilton Conservation Commission and Planning Board member, spoke about the Wilton ZBA application for an asphalt batch plant. October 23rd is the ZBA meeting in the Wilton/Lyndeborough High School cafeteria. Bart explained that this is a "change of use" from a quarry to an asphalt plant, however the application simply asks for a height variance to put in the asphalt plant silo.. The quarry is grandfathered. Bart is concerned that if the ZB approves this, then it implicitly gives approval for the asphalt plant. The location is right behind Goss Park. Bart suggested that we write a letter to the ZB. Discussion of the letter's contents included: impacts of an explosion or other industrial accident, requesting an environmental impact study, transportation of hazardous materials through Temple, potential risks to natural resources, drifting pollution. We will have a special meeting on Wednesday, October 16th, at 7pm-7:45pm to discuss this. Lincoln will write an outline, Cathy will draft a letter and send to Honey for review.
4. Sep 11, 2019 meeting minutes approved with minor changes.
5. We will discuss trail blazing in Town Forest at our special meeting.

The group adjourned at 8:42 pm. We will have a special meeting on Wednesday, October 16th, 2019 at 9:00 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.