

Town of Temple
Temple Land Use Committee
January 21, 2021 Meeting
Final Minutes

Chair Tim Fiske called the meeting to order at 5:00. T. Fiske read the required language regarding the ability to hold the meeting electronically.

T. Fiske asked members present to confirm their attendance and whether they were alone. The following members so confirmed: Tim Fiske, Allan Pickman, Kathy Boot, Honey Hastings, George Willard, Christine Robidoux, Connie Kieley, Lilliane LeBel, and Scott Hecker.

Members absent: Deb Harling.

Other attendees: Gail Cromwell, Ken Caisse, Nicole Concordia, Bruce Kullgren, Bill Ezell, Krista Stringer, Daniel Cournoyer and John Kieley (note taker).

Tim recapped the recent Select Board meeting where George Willard proposed to the Board that the TLUC recommendations not be brought to the voters in 2021. Tim asked Committee members to provide comments on that proposal:

- Scott Hecker: Confirmed that the “triangle” in the center of town is not permanently protected and should be. Scott plans to attend the SB meeting on the 26th.
- Kathy Boot: Very concerned about parking in the center of Town particularly as business throughout Town continue to grow. We need to be planning now for the future.
- Honey Hastings: Asked what plans are for town meeting; answer was still being evaluated. We need to know what the public thinks of these proposals.
- Ken Caisse: Questioned whether we should propose warrant articles this year or wait until next year.
- George Willard: Confirmed that he made motion to SB to delay recommended warrants 1 & 2 for \$25k/\$20k and recommended warrant 3 - lot line adjustment on rt 45 for one year; there was no second.
- Connie Kieley: parking was a huge issue pre COVID. The town more vibrant including TH events, Library, Birchwood, Church etc. Highway garage is a safety issue. Moving Highway Dept is a multi-year process with lots of opportunity for public input, financial studies, engineering plans etc. Need to hold a forum before TM. This project has been in the CIP narrative for years.
- Lilliane LeBel: Charge of Committee to assess town owned parcels. This is the first step not final decision.
- Allan Pickman: Parking is a real issue. We have to close the library when we have an election because of lack of parking. Highway trucks are a safety hazard with cars and pedestrians everywhere. At least do engineering work now in order to be able to bring total numbers to the voters in 2022. Take advantage of low interest rates.

- Christine Robidoux: In agreement that we need to have this conversation with voters now. Could split warrant articles with first asking general question “do you want to study moving highway” and second asking to appropriate money. Wrong to not put question to the town when they asked the Committee to do the work.
- Connie Kieley: No further study can be completed If the money is not assigned now with the warrant article. Waiting jeopardizes the vibrancy of the town center and is a safety risk. Could set up a capital reserve vs budget for flexibility.
- Tim Fiske: Don’t want to spend money on engineering only to find out people don’t want to do the project. A forum will give us good information.
- Gail Cromwell (CIP Chair): There has been note of that discussion in the CIP Narrative for years about relocating the highway dept. Personal opinion: Do forum before TM. Warrant article to move ahead including a capital reserve for the money which would allow the highway department to do some of the preliminary work. CIP could figure out payment schedule; could call a special meeting quickly. Important to take advantage of low bond rates.
- Honey Hastings: Supports combining WA’s 1 and 2. Take advantage of low interest rates.
- Nicole Concordia: Has followed TLUC minutes. Report seems to jump to conclusion to move the highway dept. Is the need imminent or can do over 10 to 20 years. Concern about recent tax rate increases. Get tax payer support by giving them information.
- Tim Fiske: Two points: #1...Congestion at highway garage has gotten a lot worse creating dangerous situations. There’s a lot more going on at TH and the Library. In past have had to ask meeting participants to move their cars so equipment could get out to plow snow. #2...Costs are important. Taxes are going up. We need CIP involved to figure out how to minimize tax impact.
- Gail Cromwell: Town budgets are flat. WA’s are well sequenced to keep town tax rate flat. ConVal is the tax rate increase driver.
- Christine Robidoux: Most TLUC members are on multiple town committees including BAC, CIP, Planning Board, Con Comm etc. We considered the financial and environmental impact of these recommendations.
- Connie Kieley: There is a lot of misinformation about these recommendations on FB. Forums will correct. We need to address these safety issues.
- George Willard: Not opposed to moving the Highway Dept but with pandemic some people are unemployed and having problems paying their taxes.
- Connie Kieley: Could do forum and consider a petition WA to find out what voters want.
- Lilliane LeBel: Committee doesn’t have a fixed time frame to complete this work. Question is how best to keep process going.
- Dan Cournoyer: Opposed to moving the Highway Department. Trucks going 5 MPH is better than electric cars going 20 MPH.

Tim asked all members to attend next weeks SB meeting.

The minutes of December 16, 2020 were discussed. Motion by Honey Hastings to accept as written; second by Christine Robidoux. Unanimously approved by roll call vote except George Willard who abstained because he had not read them.

Alternative dates for a follow up meeting were discussed and January 28 at 5:00 PM was agreed upon.

Motion to adjourn at 6:01 by Connie Kieley; seconded by Lilliane LeBel and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Minutes taken by John Kieley
Submitted by Connie Kieley