

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes, December 13, 2023
Location: Town Hall Annex

Attendees: Scott Hecker, Chair; Mike Madden, Treasurer; Cathy Joly, Secretary; Sean Radcliffe, Clay Lennartz, Marie Lennartz, Russell Wilson

Absent: Adie Krulis, Lincoln Geiger

Guests: Camilla Lockwood

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

1. Approval of Minutes

- November 8, 2023 Minutes: Clay motioned to accept the minutes as written. Scott seconded. All in favor.

2. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI): The NRI is almost finished, and we are aiming for a public presentation in February or March. *Sean will reach out to Jeff Littleton of Moosewood Ecological* about attending our January meeting. Jeff provided the last invoice for 2023 (attached) which *Sean will forward to Christine*.

3. Land Conservation Update

a. Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) property on Peterborough

Road: Mike shared an update from Chris Wells. PLC will take ownership of the property by the end of 2023.

- Chris will draft language to give the town executory rights to the land. To clarify this point, PLC is not placing a Conservation Easement on the property because 1) PLC will outright own the property and 2) PLC is a land trust governed by the state (similar to Monadnock Conservancy whom we have worked with before.) An easement requires additional time and funding. By giving Temple executory rights, if PLC were to fold then the town has rights to the property. This language will need to be reviewed and approved by the Select Board (SB) and legal. Barbara Richter of NHACC shared information about executory rights with Mike.
- Barbara Richter noted that a public forum may be required in order to spend conservation funds, so we are aiming for a public forum hosted by Chris in January or February.

- b. **Conservation of Lot 7-35:** Camilla Lockwood showed us an error on the survey: the Santos property is labeled twice, one of which is in the wrong location, so *Mike will ask the surveyors to fix this*. The surveyors also need to identify catch basins and the old dug well. When we have a completed survey, we will present it to the SB and host an informational public forum.
- Mike attended a recent SB meeting to discuss the Historical Society's (HS) concerns; no one from the HS was in attendance. Mike clarified that there was enough room around the building for plantings and maintenance of the building itself. Mike also addressed the HS's concerns with Anne McBride from Monadnock Conservancy (MC) who will hold the Conservation Easement. Anne agreed with using the property for educational and recreational purposes however she was concerned about commercial uses. They will continue to discuss this in the new year; MC is waiting for spring to do their field work on the property. *Mike will let the HS know that we are still working on the language.*
- c. **Fisk Hill:** Tim Fiske will provide an update at our January meeting.
4. **Volunteer Agreement Form:** Sean asked Carole about how to contact NHMA about creating this form, and Carole explained that the request has to come from Scott as the Chair. The goal of the form is to signify that citizens are authorized to be working on conserved lands on the Conservation Commission's behalf; we also have questions about liability in case of injuries. *Sean created a list of questions and will send them to Scott for forwarding to NHMA.*
5. **Kiosk Update:** Scott submitted the payment. The manufacturer will have it ready for the spring and then we will decide whether to pick it up and incur Vermont sales tax, or have it delivered for a fee, whichever is less.
6. **Highway Department Location Committee:** Clay shared that they have an accurate survey of the site and buildings, with draft overlays of multiple options. The committee will be pricing options and likely weeding out some of them. Clay expects they will present a report documenting options and recommendations before the 2024 Town Meeting.
7. **Trail Easement on Rt 45:** After pursuing all of the easement options imaginable for the 50' wide slice of land owned by the town, and all of them leading to dead ends, we are moving this topic to the Trail Work section and will begin cutting in the trail.
8. **Marsh Property:** No update.

9. ***Forest Plan:*** *Scott will print copies of the Forest Plan to be available in the store, town office, and library. We will also post a PDF version on the Conservation Commission's Google Drive and link to it from our web page and also post to Temple's Facebook page. Cathy motioned to authorize Scott to expend funds from the Conservation Commission budget to print three (3) copies of the Forest Plan. Russell seconded. All in favor.*
10. **White Ledges Gate Lock:** Russell will try to determine the combination for the lock on the green gate on the White Ledges trail. Being able to open the gate is helpful when Eric Foley brings his tools to the top to routinely clear around the blueberry bushes and maintain the view.

The group adjourned at 7:10 pm. Due to schedule conflicts, the next meeting will be one week later on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 5:30 or 6:00 PM (see agenda for the final time) in the Town Hall big room.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

Attachments:

1. NRI Final Invoice