

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, August 12, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Sean Radcliffe, Adie Krulis, Scott Hecker, Carol Mamczak, Cathy Joly

Absent: Lincoln Geiger, Honey Hastings

Guests: Eric Foley, Vivian Wills, Mike Madden

Started at 7:03 pm

1. Scott moves to accept the minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting at our next meeting when we have a quorum of members who attended the July 8th meeting; Cathy seconded. Roll call vote: Scott yes, Sean yes, Carol yes, Adie yes, Cathy yes.
2. Vivian Wills is interested in having a handicap accessible trail on her property. Scott visited the location and noted that parking is great, slope is gentle, it's a 100-yard loop trail with a small stream. *Vivian made a video of the walk and will forward the google link to Scott who will forward to the rest of the committee.* Vivian offered her list of points: 1) establish parking area, 2) expose old barn foundation with Eric's help, 3) determine the path surface with best accessibility/environmentally friendly/maintainable, 4) determine plan for maintenance and care, 5) reach out to local resources for work as well as donations, look for grants. Vivian has pictures from 1920's and 30's of her mother and grandparents - the land then was all cleared and now it's forested. Eric and Vivian walked all over the property. Eric noted the existing trail doesn't need any tree removal, it's already wide enough. Carol asked about the trail surface at Crotched Mtn; Vivian has pushed a wheelchair on that trail and was challenged by the soft surface. Adie asked about what seasons the trail would be open, Vivian is thinking 3 seasons to start. A discussion of surfaces included: using stone dust and edging as a surface, maybe a thin layer of stone dust over a good base to keep costs down, looking for examples of stone dust on slopes (how did they control erosion?), using a honeycomb-shaped product that gets pushed into the ground, how do people in wheelchairs move across the sand on beaches? Adie suggested having a wheelchair for people to use that has large tires (beach wheelchairs); Vivian thought that with the different challenges that various people have, the beach wheelchair may not be accessible to all. There are 2 parallel trails and Vivian suggested that just the upper trail could have the more solid surface. *Vivian will reach out to Valerie Piedmont to learn about the Emerson Brook Forest's handicap accessible trail. Vivian will also work on a map of the trail.* This has been a vision and goal of Vivian's for years, and we are all looking forward to working on it!
3. Temple Land Research Committee - Scott attended the July 11th meeting. They looked at the land behind the municipal building where an overgrown path goes through a

wetland; Tim is not interested in having the highway department there because there is insufficient space. Then they looked at the existing highway department location and mentioned the need for parking for the town, and that one septic tank supports all the buildings.

4. Town Forest Update: Eric was in the forest today and noted that the 5 piles of old sugaring tubing are still there. Scott did email Ben Fisk about the piles and asked when he could remove them. Eric also noted that 51 trees were tapped, for a total of 53 taps; Ben taps the neighboring property, with the main sap lines on that property, and sends small taps out to red maple and sugar maple trees in the Town Forest. Ben's contract with us expired the spring of 2019 so there should be no taps without another contract. It has been over a year since the contract expired, so we discussed what to do if Ben doesn't comply with our requests. *Scott will contact Select Board for guidance regarding trash, new taps and contacting NHMA for legal advice.* Eric saw horseback riders on the trail; they had followed the trail backwards and had a hard time following the trail. *Eric will move some of the wooden signs* to remedy this. One of the riders, Kim Snow, said she and other riders would be interested in helping out with trail work - thank you! The mound ants are very active this year, and Eric saw 4 new mounds. Carol asked if they are a good thing. Eric thinks they are, they only destroy the vegetation right around their mound; Scott shared that the expert from Harvard Forest said that the ants also consume the insects that eat the trees, including Emerald Ash Borer. Their mounds can be 25' deep! Eric mentioned that one of the new colonies is near the road and parking area. New signs on town property say "Closed", however an email from Select Board states that individuals and families are allowed to use the Town Forest, and groups need to get approval from the Select Board. We want to encourage people to use the trails, so *Carol will create and laminate an additional sign* with verbiage from the Select Board's email.
5. Town Forest Plan - we reviewed Eric's proposal. Scott commented that the price seems low; Eric thinks it is a reasonable starting point. Carol made a motion to accept Eric's proposal with funding to come from the Conservation Commission Trust Fund. Roll call vote: Sean yes, Scott yes, Carol yes, Adie yes, Cathy yes. Sean asked Eric if he was qualified to do a Natural Resources Inventory of the entire town; we should be doing this on a regular basis to discern any changes that are happening, and the last one was from 2003. Adie has a cousin (Tim Fiske's oldest son) who is a geographer that does this type of work and is willing to help as well; in particular he can do the GIS mapping of the data that Eric gathers. Adie noted that LIDAR data is accessible from NH DES. Eric may be interested in doing this after completing the Town Forest Plan. Going forward, Eric needs a contract; *Sean suggested we use Eric's proposal as the contract and Scott can sign it.*

6. Mike is interested in joining the Con Com as an alternate member. *Mike will write a letter to the Select Board saying that he is interested in joining. Scott will write a letter to the Select Board saying that we are interested in Mike joining us.*
7. Eric suggested that we have two meetings in one month to get through all the agenda items. Some items took longer than expected tonight, and we should be on track for getting through the agenda next month.

The group adjourned at 8:56 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

Italics above indicate tasks to be done.

Attached: Eric Foley's proposal for updating the Town Forest Plan

8-6-20

Proposal to Update Temple Town Forest Stewardship Plan:

I, Eric Foley propose the following updates and additions to the Temple Town Forest Stewardship Plan...

Updates:

I will update the language of this plan to reflect changes to the property since 2012 (new trail work, Monadnock Conservancy Easement, forest health, discounted maple sugaring). Every section of this plan will be reviewed and edited to reflect what the forest is like for 2020. Sections that will include major revision are as follows...

- Locations and Items of Interest (To reflect new sites along Lone Pine Trail)
- Maps (All existing maps will be updated to show the new layout of the Lone Pine Trail)
- Stewardship Goals and Objectives (Possible logging options, trail updates)
- Forest Health (Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Emerald Ash Borer, Beech Bark Disease)

Additions:

- Zoomed in Topographic Map
- Zoomed out Aerial Imagery Map of the area surrounding the Town Forest
- Forest Stand Type Map
- Suggested forest management practices section
- Section on Monadnock Conservancy Easement

Cost:

GPS Data Collection for Map Updates: \$100.00

GIS Work for Existing and New Maps: \$250.00

Written Updates and Additions to the Stewardship Plan: \$450.00

Total Cost: \$800.00

Thank you,

Eric Foley

**The entirety of this work shall be completed by the end of December 2020.*