

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Final Minutes, January 8th, 2020

Location: Town Hall, Main hall

Attendees: Honey Hastings, Sean Radcliffe, Scott Hecker, Lincoln Geiger, Carol Mamczak, Adie Krulis

Absent: Cathy Joly

Guest Vince M, Connie K

Started at 7:03 pm

Opening and intro of agenda (Scott)

Approval of December 11, 2019 meeting minutes (Group) .

Approved with one correction: Spelling of Adie's name.

Approval of November 13, 2019 non-public meeting minutes (Group)

Honey mentioned that it is not clear how non-public meeting minutes should be handled by the Town. *Honey will contact municipal association about how they should be handled by the town.* How are they stored? The group approved the minutes of November 13th as is. Cathy must edit and hold on to them until Honey has a direction on how to handle sealed minutes.

Select newsletter articles (Group)

Spearheading the Con Com Newsletter will be a collective effort between Connie and Scott with other members contributing. Connie and Scott want to use the last newsletter as template (2009). Scott supplied suggested list of topics for the Newsletter. Honey: We could reuse some topics from before. There are a lots of new people in town who have not seen the original newsletters. There was a discussion about media type: Email, Social Media, Website, USPS. The group agreed there is great value having the newsletter done by town meeting. Connie and Scott mentioned photos are valuable. Electronic versions of the Newsletter would be color. Printed copies would be B&W. *Connie will get prices. Lincoln agreed to write about the value of conservation, including conserving your land.* Sean R suggested we include the annual spring water testing project in the newsletter but we don't have speakers or dates. *Adie will ask Pete Caswell about April 8th presentation, April 12th collection. Cathy/Sean will work on writing up about water project. Adie write up about composting/food waste. Carol write about Chestnut with Vince. Sean write interview with Sartell farm. Scott will write up about the Temple Forest Allegheny ants. Question How to approach Linda Bollinger about her hikes? Scott: Will write up something about conservation commission.* Vince suggested mentioning the different types of conserved lands in Temple. Scott agreed.

American Chestnut Tree project (Group/Vince Mamone)

Vince has explained his perspective of American Chestnut Foundation (ACF) from his recent interactions with them. Vince wasn't happy with last meeting with them. The back-cross program is not going to work. They are coy about the wording but it isn't going to work. The American Chestnut Foundation are pursuing GMO approach. They are betting on GMO approach. Vince wanted local Chestnuts to cross breed with ACF trees. Vince is discouraged. Educational plantings are just PR. The back-cross breeds are very chinese. They were trying to get $\frac{7}{8}$ American but then the trees became less resistant to the blight. Adie: Would GMO tree be patented? Vince found Steve Hartman (Innovative Gardening Solutions). Hartman is big in organic farming, He has Chestnut trees that are 20 yo and have no blight or blight tolerant. Vince wants to work with propagation. Hartman has just started selling nuts. Vince suggested Temple would buy nuts. Vince bought 20 nuts himself. There are 3 versions: High elevation (4000 ft), Kentucky tree (produces lots of nuts) and the

Virginia (very resistant). Vince will plant and grow them in pots in his greenhouse. Once they are about 18" then he will plant them in Summer with proper protection. *Vince will work on this project this spring and summer.* Vince sees lots of possibilities with Temple residents. Vince believes we can easily become more this with our own funds. Vince suggested that after first planting, then we can consider planting on town land. Vince's first step is to put them in private lands in Town, preferably acidic soil. People shouldn't plant them on ledge because Chestnut trees have a 4 to 6 foot tap root. They also need good sunlight. Making plantings from the Hartman nuts is very doable. If our trees begin to develop problems then Steve Hartman can be a resource. Steve suggests we improve soil before planting his Chestnut trees.. Vince likes this approach. *Carol M will connect with Vince in this project.*

Affordable housing/planning board zoning changes.

Honey suggested we discuss the pending zoning changes for affordable housing. Vince is curious about our concern. Honey suggested we should not allow very large developments of 50 to 100 units. 10 to 20 units is sufficient, 50 to 100 is too big. Honey suggested we can't control who buys the affordable housing units. There is no way to control the prices. Honey likes duplexes because she grew up in the suburbs of Philly. Adi voiced concern about the amount of land needed for habitat. She stressed nature needs contiguous land. She suggested nature uses land very differently when it is partitioned in small open spaces compared to large open space. The group explained the existing PRD zoning to help those unfamiliar with our PRD zoning. The PRD offers solution for large partitions of land. Adie suggested the State is interested in moving forward quickly. If we have something on books, then the State won't impose new rules on the town.. Honey suggested the planning board is development oriented group. It is unlikely state will pass anything between now and June (end of legislature session). Scott mentioned John Kieley criticized the changes to PRD changes because of the reduced open land and denser housing. The new zoning hearing is next Wednesday. The zoning changes would be voted on in ballot. The public's only input is at the hearings. Honey reiterated the zoning has no control over prices. Adie stressed there is need much smaller houses; young people don't want to have large houses; they want to pay off loans and travel. Several members mentioned that there are many people with rental units in town in the form of accessory dwellings. Honey encouraged members to go to hearing and get others to go to hearing. Scott mentioned Christine R has a lot of resources on topic and the PB is moving faster than Christine R can gather ideas and information on the topic of affordable housing.. Honey mentioned the regional planning commissions may be involved. Scott said he is asking other town's CCs about this topic.

The group adjourned at 8:35 PM.. Next meeting Wednesday Jan 22nd, 7:00, somewhere in this building. *Honey will ask town admin to secure the annex for our meeting.*

Minutes submitted by Sean Radcliffe. *Italics above indicate tasks to be done.*