

# TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, October 14, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Attendees: Sean Radcliffe, Scott Hecker, Carol Mamczak, Cathy Joly, Mike Madden

Absent: Adie Krulis, Honey Hastings, Lincoln Geiger

Guests: Ben Fisk, John Kieley, Connie Kieley

Started at 7:03 pm

1. Roll call attendance: Scott Hecker, Sean Radcliffe, Mike Madden, Carol Mamczak, Cathy Joly. Note that guests John and Connie Kieley joined the meeting later on.
2. Scott moved to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2020 meeting, Mike seconded, all in favor. Roll call vote: Sean yes, Mike yes, Carol yes, Scott yes, Cathy yes.
3. Town Forest/Ben Fisk: Ben removed all the sugaring trash from the forest - thank you! Ben said there are still 40-50 active taps, so we discussed what to do about these. Sean explained that we would need a contract as in past years. Ben currently taps NH Forest Society land and can use his contract with them as a template; the fee is based on the number of taps, with a minimum fee. Scott shared that the trail has been rerouted far away from where the taps are, so they are not visible. Ben said there is the potential for maybe 30 more taps. Mike asked if there were other colors for tap lines. Ben previously used green lines; blue lines are supposed to be the least noticeable to the human eye throughout all the seasons according to research from Vermont where lots of sugaring is done in hiking areas. *Ben will forward the NH Forest Society contract to Scott, including the total number of taps, a map showing the new and existing taps in different colors, and a link to the research on tubing colors.*
4. Handicap-accessible trail: No update; Scott will contact Monadnock Conservancy as per last month.
5. Town Forest work: the kiosk that John Kieley had mentioned is on Temple Mountain off Rt 101; John explained that there are 2 kiosks, and the kiosk in question is the one on the left (put there by LCHIP). No permission is needed to move it, and John can assist with a trailer. *Scott will take a picture of it and forward to the members.* It would be useful if it's in good shape. Eric Foley sent an update via email which is attached below.
6. Forest Plan for Town Forest: Mike consulted the town treasurer, Peter Allen, who manages the conservation fund account. The invoice for Eric needs to specify that it will be paid from the fund. Mike can make an invoice for Eric if that helps.

7. 2021 Budget meeting: October 28, 4:30. Mike will be representing the Conservation Commission as treasurer. John shared his thoughts on our two types of costs: one is ongoing, our annual work, events, which should come out of the town budget like other town boards; the other is major projects and easements, which should come out of conservation funds. Discussion about our annual work for 2021 includes Chris Weston trails, signage, upgrading trail maps with points of interest, water testing, membership in NHACC, newsletter. Connie asked if we have plans to revise the natural resources section of the master plan, and John explained that this work should be paid for out of the town budget. John thinks the current budget of \$1400 is too low and suggests that we not set a budget number on the 28th, and continue to work on this next month. John shared that early on when the town was debating putting money into the conservation fund, residents were vocal about the need to provide funding so the Conservation Commission could conserve land and protect resources. John also explained why the aquifer study was funded from the conservation fund. This was Temple's first-ever aquifer study, an expensive undertaking, and not a regularly occurring event. The Conservation Commission recognized that water flows out of Temple, rather than into Temple, so it was therefore essential to protect our brooks, wetlands, all of our wells - our aquifers - because if we damage our aquifers, with no new water flowing into Temple, we have exhausted our water supply. Lincoln brought in people who were aquifer specialists to perform the study. So we will continue this discussion at our next meeting, when more members of the commission are present. We appreciate John's perspective and welcome his participation again.
8. Town Land Research Committee: Scott shared that they discussed parcels on Rt 45 and Scott shared our interest in having access to the existing trails. The committee unanimously agreed on a right-of-way on the southernmost property to intersect with the corner of the Kieley property.
9. Chestnuts on East Road: Keith Charlton is growing out some of the seeds. Sean knows of another chestnut tree producing seeds, unsure if it is American or Chinese; *Sean will take photos*. Chinese chestnut leaves are shiny; American chestnut leaves are dull, dark green. *Scott will reach out to the Charltons to keep up with their progress*.
10. Chris Weston Trail: Consider including funds in the 2021 budget for blazing this trail. The parking area has a lot of poison ivy. Scott walked the trail with George Willard; he clipped branches to open up the main trail but had to bushwhack around to the north side of wetland to the end where there's a beaver dam. A third of the trail is on George's land, which is difficult to walk on: a timber harvest left a lot of slash on ground, and the mountain laurel is dense. George said someone from the town used to mow the field. Consider a picnic table overlooking the wetland. Initially focus on south trail, then north trail. Carol and her husband went out there and couldn't figure out where to go. Mike

suggested bringing tape to mark the trail. *Members can meet October 20, 9:00am, at Chris Weston parking lot to start marking trails; Mike will bring orange tape.*

*11. Sean is connecting with Heather White-Pratt to inspect her conservation easement.*

The group adjourned at 8:29 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cathy Joly.

*Italics above indicate tasks to be done.*

*Attachment: Eric Foley's email regarding Town Forest:*

**From:** Eric Foley <efoley347@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Re: Con Com Oct 14 meeting agenda

**Date:** October 14, 2020 at 5:03:40 PM EDT

Hi All,

I won't be attending tonight's meeting due to family obligations.

I am still at work on the stewardship plan and will be finishing the maps soon. We had discussed if newer aerial images were available. There is imagery available from 2015 but it is what is called "leaf on imagery" meaning the pictures were taken when the leaves were on the trees. So the whole forest looks green verses "leaf off imagery" that can show areas of conifers and hardwoods. I am planning on using the 2011 imagery I used from the last time I made maps.

The length of the Lone Pine Trail is about 1.10 mile give or take, I got different readings based on what device and app I used to record GPS tracks. The "old" trail equaled 1.07 mile. So we didn't end up shortening the trail like Scott and I thought we would. The new Allegheny Mound Ants spur trail is 110 feet long, one way.

The trails have remained in good condition this summer. Only one dead beech tree top had fallen across the Swamp Loop Trail. I cut that one up.

Thanks,

Eric Foley

Paul Smith's College Alumni

Ecological Forest Management B.S. & Geographic Information Systems Certificate '12