

TEMPLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Draft Minutes of Public Meeting, February 20, 2012

Attendees: Lincoln Geiger, Honey Hastings, Bruce Kantner, John Kieley, Sean Radcliffe, Dave Repak. **Visitors:** Brian Hotz, Coral and John Wood, Linda Homer, Connie Kieley

Opening at 6:08 pm

Brian Hotz, Society for Protection of NH Forests, Fiske Easement Project: Brian passed out a Project MEMO summarizing SPNHF's renewed negotiations with the Fiske Family for an easement on their 180-acre parcel off of General Miller Highway. This parcel would link the Beaudoin easement and Heald Reservation lands, expanding a significant east-west corridor of protected lands in Temple and Wilton. The easement purchase would be financed primarily through private fundraising, which would be a labor intensive effort probably in the summer-fall of this year. The TCC had worked with the Forest Society on this possibility a couple of years ago, but the owners decided not to pursue it further. Brian is now asking the TCC two questions: 1) Is this project still a priority and funding possibility for Temple? 2) Would the TCC have ideas and enthusiasm to contribute to a SPNHF fundraising campaign?

TCC members responded unanimously that they would be in favor of this project, which would be of significant benefit to the Town with its Master Plan goal of open space protection. A well managed forest would also generate timber tax revenue in future years. Members said they would want to make a plan to contribute start-up funds for the project and would certainly come up with ideas and support for SPNHF's campaign. All of the visitors present, including two former TCC members, expressed their strong approvals for this project.

The Commission thanked Brian for his presentation and expressed appreciation to the Fiske Family and SPNHF for renewing this easement project. Brian will be in touch with the TCC in a few weeks. *Dave and John will do some research on the project and report at the next meeting.*

Discussion of other easement possibilities: Members briefly reviewed other potential Temple properties that landowners and members have considered for easements in recent years. They agreed that further consideration of these should be done to determine priorities for Conservation Fund monies and an appropriate allocation for the Fiske parcel. *Bruce offered to bring a map of lands near the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge in the north end of Temple to the next meeting.*

Eric Foley's Town Forest Project: Bruce heard from Eric that his Town Forest Project is resting at the moment while he works on other, related college courses: Eric writes, "I'm currently working on a research paper for my forest management course with a theme of forest taxation, views of conservation and preservation, and how this all affects non-industrial private forestland owners."

Helen Davis Property: *John will find out the current status and report at the next meeting.*

Meeting ended at 8:10 pm.

The next, regular meeting is on Monday, March 12th, at 6:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Bruce Kantner

Italics above indicate tasks to be done or motions.