

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 9, 2004

**Final Minutes of Public Hearing**

**Present:** Acting Chairman Mike Connolly; members Roger Hatt, Bruce Kantner & Vince Mamone.  
Alternate members Charlene Eddy & Linda Homer; junior member Eric Foley.

**Absent:** John Kieley, Paul Quinn & David Repak

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Bruce clarified that since less than 5 regular members were present, the alternates present could both vote.

OLD BUSINESS

**Minutes** – January 12, 2004 & January 26, 2004

**MOTION:** Vince moved to defer approving both January minutes until the next meeting. Bruce seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Diane was asked to re-send the minutes of January 26<sup>th</sup> with the suggested corrections.**

**Secretary's Report:** Vince explained that a note would be added to the CC financial record in the Annual Report to explain the discrepancy between this record and the Treasurer's record. A letter was received from UNH regarding the Granite Map database update deadline of 3/5/04. **The Open Space Committee will get the updates to UNH.** A letter was received from Richard Fressilli, of Fish Road, stating that he is a Farmer in Temple and his farm was excluded from the article that Paul Quinn wrote for the Ledger. There was a discussion about what qualifies as a "working farm" and Mike said that \$2,500 in revenue annually from the farming activity is the qualifier. CC members named at least three other ventures in town that qualify. Roger said that the CC should do an inventory of these small farms.

**MOTION:** Roger moved that the CC send a thank you letter to Mr. Fressilli. Vince seconded the motion and all were in favor. **Vince said that he will write the letter.**

**Open Space Committee:** Roger received the CD with the data from Southwest Regional. It has been passed on to Alex Gonyaw who is working on the Temple NRI. Ben Tirey brought in the most current paper maps of Temple from Southwest Regional, which show some of the protected land and easements. He is helping to get something more current made. It was decided that lot lines would be added as well as the most up-to-date easements.

**Friends of Temple Hall:** Bruce, Honey Hastings & Connie Kieley presented plans for the renovation of Town Hall that the Friends have been working on with restoration architect Rick Monahon. Plans include a two-story addition to the back of the building which will house a meeting room about twice the size of the meeting room in the Municipal Bldg., a kitchen, new bathroom, storage space for band equipment and theater group props etc., and a room for the heating units. Renovations to the current structure include removing the kitchen, making the bathroom handicapped accessible and working on the balcony. There is a warrant article creating a \$20,000 capital reserve account for this project and the Friends of Temple Hall are planning to do private fundraising as well. At 7 p.m. on 2/24/04 Rick Monahon will give a 45 minute presentation on the renovation project. The

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Friends will host an open house from 6 – 7 p.m. to allow the public to look at the Town Hall and see what the committee has been looking at over the last year and what the space needs are. **The CC will discuss this again at the next meeting.**

**Eric Foley Report:** Eric reported that he noted some new markers at the Ledges. There were yellow dots on two rocks and there was a stake with the number 118 on it. He also said that three trees have blown across the access road. **This issue will be put on the agenda and dealt with at a future meeting.** Eric expressed interest

in becoming an adult member of the board at some point in the future and said that he has a 10-year-old friend who might be interested in becoming a junior member of the CC. He will bring his friend to a meeting and see if his friend is interested. Eric requested hard copies of agendas and minutes at each meeting because he does not have access to email. He also asked if he could have copies of photos that others have taken that he can add to his photo album.

The remainder of the meeting was spent on a discussion of Con Com funding. Bruce reported that John and Dave have been working on a report dealing with the costs of community services in Temple and how new houses cost more than the taxes they bring in. Bruce spoke about initiating a long-term campaign to raise and/or sustain funding for conservation in Temple. He suggested that anyone interested in working on this refer to the book, Saving Special Places: Community Funding for Land Conservation. There was general discussion about how to raise and how to spend Con Com funds. There were also some strong viewpoints expressed clearly by Tedd Petro, Mike and Charlene as to why citizens may support the Frazier petition article that would reduce the CC funding by 90%.

- Any savings on property taxes, no matter how small, is much wanted. This "need of the Town" was presented by Tedd as a powerful, emotional issue relating to some residents' fears about whether they can afford to stay in Temple. Any long-term implications from the article's proposed reduction of open space funding,, such as the likelihood of increased cost of community services and taxes due to more development, are seen as less important than the short-term gain of this small tax savings.
- Citizens want to see easements purchased and land protected right now from the Conservation Fund monies, according Mike. They're concerned that the CC is not taking action with these funds. They don't trust the CC and don't know about the prioritizing process that the CC is currently setting up.
- Citizens want closer control over the LUCT funds and don't trust the CC to make the right decisions with so much money. Charlene said they would prefer to have a definite sum put aside through some other method such as a capital reserve fund, which they and the Select Board could control. Citizens do not understand that any Conservation Fund money decisions regarding land must also go before a public hearing and be approved by the Select Board. they see the CC as having sole control.
- There was good support at the meeting for the TOP proposal as an educational and fund-raising campaign, but there was not a clear consensus on the relationship of the CC to TOP. There was also a lack of consensus on the Frazier article.

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- Vince is anxious for concrete action on the site identification and priority process with relation to land preservation. This is so the CC can start to talk about specific properties with something to back up the talk. He said that he is not in a hurry to close on any particular property, as long as it is not in any immediate threat of development.

**Linda offered to write the article for the newsletter and email it to the other members before submitting it.**

It was agreed that the Dijit Taylor presentation, scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>, would be cancelled.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Diane Nilsson