

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Public Meeting, February 12th, 2007**

**Attendees:** Honey Hastings, Roger Hatt, Lincoln Geiger, Bruce Kantner, John Kieley, Sean Radcliffe, Dave Repak, Eric Foley. Guests: Brenda Lind, Tim Fiske, Ben Tirey.

**Opening** at 7:00 PM

**Presentation by Brenda Lind of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests on the Fiske Easement** (one hour): Brenda handed out Project Memos for the Fiske Property Conservation Easement. The Fiske Family (Sherry, Tim, and Greg) has been working with the Forest Society since 2004 to develop an easement and funding for their 180 acres that abut the Forest Society's Heald Reservation. A preliminary appraisal estimates the easement value at \$135,000. The Forest Society requests that Temple contribute \$30,000 from its Conservation Fund. The easement would allow agriculture, forestry, non-commercial recreation, and guarantee non-motorized public access for recreation. The owners could choose to allow motorized access.

The timeline for completing this project is approximately one year. The Forest Society is hoping for approval of Temple's funding share by the Select Board by the end of March. This support from Temple would demonstrate to the Forest Society and its potential donors that Temple cares about protecting this valuable conservation property.

TCC members reviewed the easement decision process, which includes a preliminary decision to proceed, a public hike, a public hearing, and final recommendation to the Select board.

John Kieley moved, and Sean Radcliffe seconded, that the TCC proceed with the easement process. The vote was unanimous in favor. *A hearing will be posted for March 26<sup>th</sup>* so that a TCC decision can be given to the Select Board for their action.

Members expressed their appreciation to Tim Fiske, Ben Tirey, the Fiske Family, and the Forest Society for making this easement a possibility. It is a very significant property that links with several other protected lands in and around Temple. Citizens of Temple are very fortunate to have this first partnership with the Forest Society and their donors.

**Minutes** of January 22<sup>nd</sup> hearing and meeting were approved.

**Planning for hikes:** Roger will be the contact person for the hike on the Fiske Property on March 18<sup>th</sup>. John will be the contact for the hike on April 15<sup>th</sup> led by Bruce Fox in the mountains on the north side of town.

**Preparations for Town Meeting:** Members agreed to put up a poster display and hike fliers.

**Discussion on use of Recycling Center:** John reported that Temple residents are not making good use of the Recycling Center. There seem to be many misconceptions about the process. Does the TCC want to help improve this situation? Peterborough has a Green Committee that works to improve energy efficiency, reduction of wastes, and recycling in town offices and operations. Members felt it might be challenging to find volunteers for such a committee in our smaller town, but such green practices should be encouraged.

**Report on Wapack National Wildlife Refuge Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> public meeting:** Bruce, Lincoln, and Sean attended an excellent meeting in Peterborough on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan that is now being developed for the Refuge. Five officials from the Nat'l Wildlife Refuge System presented the planning process and received suggestions from the audience, which represented many regional conservation and recreation organizations. *The TCC will fill out a Comment Form at its next meeting. Bruce will circulate suggestions beforehand.* Information is available at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Wapack/ccphome.html>

Meeting ended at 9:40. Next meeting is February 26th.

Minutes submitted by Bruce Kantner

*Italics* above indicate tasks to be done.

