

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Public Meeting, February 23, 2009

Attendees: Honey Hastings, Bruce Kantner, John Kielely, Sean Radcliffe, Dave Repak

Opening at 7:06 pm

Minutes of Feb. 9th meeting were approved.

Report on Monadnock Region Land Summit, 1/31/09: The four TCC members who attended this all-day event reported on the large and lively attendance (200 people from 32 towns) and excellent selection of workshops. This was the first regional gathering of this sort and an indication of the strong conservation/land use interest in the region.

John reported on the Workforce Housing workshop he attended. New legislation, effective on July 1, 2009, mandates that NH towns keep 50% of their buildable land open to multi-family housing. This will increase the pressure for cluster development and is cause for Temple to review its policies and Master Plan.

Merrimack River Watershed Wetlands Restoration Strategy: Bruce reported on this first meeting of a new project for the restoration and preservation of wetlands. Presentations were given by Lori Sommer of the NHDES Wetland Bureau and Pete Walker of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., the consulting firm that has prepared a study of the watershed. Applications from towns and organizations in the watershed seeking funds for project, may submit applications by the end of April, and grants will be awarded in the summer. Funds can be used for wetlands restoration and mitigation, including the purchase of conservation easements on critical properties impacting wetlands. TCC members noted the short deadline for applications and discussed possible wetlands issues in Temple. Consideration of projects will continue at the next meeting.

Discussion of Helen Davis Property: John arranged for this development issue to be discussed at the March 4th Planning Board meeting. *Lincoln will present the issue and other TCC members are encouraged to attend*

Warrant Article for easement on Chris Weston Conservation Area: The Select Board has agreed to support this article and present it at Town Meeting.

March 26th public presentation on ice storm damage clean-up: Karen Bennett and John Nute, from NH Cooperative Extension in forestry will present an evening workshop on cleaning up the ice storm damage. *John will email a description of the workshop to members, Honey will publish it in the Temple Newsletter, and Bruce will compose a press release.*

Chainsaw safety workshop: Spencer Laramie of NH Coop. Extension will offer a workshop in Temple, but members realized the date conflicts with Good Roads Day. *John will contact him to consider another date.* The question of the \$500 cost was discussed, and *John will look into possible funding help from the Bragg Fund.*

Energy review of Master Plan: Honey reported on the grant obtained by TEEC for hiring a consultant to conduct an energy audit of Town Ordinances and conservation issues. Member are appreciative of this effort and look forward to using the findings in their conservation work.

Meeting ended at 8:20 PM. **Next meeting on March 9, 2009.**

Minutes submitted by Bruce Kantner

Italics above indicate tasks to be done

