

Manchester Conservation Commission

October 1, 2020 Meeting

Convened at 7:06 pm.

Members present (via teleconferencing in light of COVID-19): Jeff Janell, Fred Snow, Deb Plengey, Tyler Trask, Jackie Dougherty, Shenna Bellows, Sara Kingdon.

Guests present: Garry Hinkley, Julie Isbill (NPS), Elizabeth Brown (NPS).

1. Introductions made. Welcome to Jackie—she was approved at 9/8/2020 BOS mtg as an associate member of MCC.
2. NPS/RTCA program: Elizabeth informed group she will be moving on to other NPS projects, and this will be her last MCC mtg. Many thanks to Elizabeth. Jeff J noted MCC has received formal approval of RTCA grant renewal through 2/28/2021. Any further request to extend funding would be due 3/1/2021.
3. Minutes from 9/2/2020 MCC mtg reviewed and approved.
4. Manchester Town Forest Trails project (MTFTP):
 - a. Trail route/design: Garry and Tyler flagged a slightly different route for the Kerns Hill Rd section of the proposed Loop Trail, based on Jean-Luc's advice. New map reviewed. The short connector trail from Kerns Hill Loop Trail to the 'junkyard' area will need to be flagged. Garry and Tyler will work on this. This connector would keep the trail on Town land and would facilitate access to the "Res." Tyler will coordinate a date/time for interested MCC members to walk the revised Kerns Hill Rd section of the trail. In light of landowner preferences (see 4b), Garry, Tyler, Jackie (and possibly Jean-Luc) will assess feasibility of using Town land (rather than the True property section of the Pipeline) to access the CMP corridor and to maintain the continuity of the proposed Loop Trail. Additionally, use of Town land in this section could facilitate future trail development on Town land on the other side of the CMP corridor. The group discussed the potential need/feasibility of separating the walking trail from the ATV trail along the CMP corridor. Julie suggested that the status of the ATV trail along the CMP corridor be reviewed in this regard.
 - b. Landowner contacts/relations: Pipeline section: Jeff J communicated with the True family, who declined MCC request to use the section of the Pipeline that goes through their land for inclusion in future trail. Garry made contact with CMP staff and plans to set up Zoom mtg with CMP representative, Julie, and any interested MCC members. If the connector trail to the 'junkyard' (see section 4a) cannot be done successfully on Town land (ie, if there is too much wet area), then further landowner contact may be considered. Julie raised question of whether Town of Manchester and/or Town of Hallowell needs to be contacted for formal acceptance/approval of at least the Kerns Hill Rd portion of the proposed Loop Trail. Garry will bring this request to Manchester BOS.
 - c. Trail building: Discussion of need to hire trail professionals, such as Maine Conservation Corps, to review proposed trail and help estimate labor/materials costs for trail construction. Julie explained that the report generated by this type of professional trail review will help with future completion of RTP grant request. Julie will research Maine Conservation Corps' availability/cost. Jeff J indicated funds are available from MCC to pay for the professional trail assessment. Garry said that CeMeNEMBA might be able to help with developing trails in the section closer to the CMP corridor, especially in light of inability to use the True property section of the Pipeline.
 - d. Parking: Garry will bring proposal for parking spaces (possibly 2-3) at Kerns Hill Rd to Manchester BOS.
3. Community Garden proposal:
 - a. Garry reported that the survey (to gauge community interest) was posted on the Town website this week. He noted the survey will likely remain on the website until early 2021. The

survey information may be provided at the polling station in November, and it could also be communicated via postings in other locations.

- b. Deb will call her contacts in the farming community about possible available land.
- c. Deb will create a poster to encourage community members to do the survey. Jackie volunteered to put up posters.
- d. Garry will contact Carolyn Van Horn of the Manchester Grange about posting survey information.
- e. Garry said Doug Ide was going speak with Lakeside Orchards re: possible land use.
- f. Jeff J suggested the soil at a future proposed site might need to be tested prior to use.
- g. Deb wondered if Town would provide liability insurance for landowner of future proposed site.

4. LED Street Light project: Garry said that project implementation is hoped to begin soon.

5. Recycling/Municipal waste: Sara reported on communication with an interested community member who hoped to foster further discussion of recycling options for the Town. Future possibilities could include re-contacting ecomaine to determine currently available contracts/ pricing and exploring a recycling relationship with Readfield or West Gardiner (or other nearby town). Currently, the Town does have a recycling pathway through a) haulers bringing recycling to Hatch Hill and b) individual Town residents bringing recycling to Hatch Hill. As a next step, Garry said April (in Town Office) is gathering data about the amount of recycling taken to Hatch Hill by the haulers and by Manchester residents.

6. Eagle Scout trail work at Jamies Pond: Garry reported that Micah (Eagle Scout) has gathered materials and intends to begin work with his Troop the weekend of 10/3/2020.

7. Planning Board update: Per Garry, the Board is working on sign ordinance. Paving is underway on Summerhaven Road.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 7 pm.