

Manchester Conservation Commission

December 5, 2019 Meeting

Convened at 7:14 pm.

Members present: Jeff Janell, Fred Snow, Jean-Luc Theriault, Deb Plengey, Sara Kingdon, Garry Hinkley (guest).

1. October 2019 minutes reviewed and approved. The November 2019 minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.
2. Review of RTP site visit on 12/5/19 —Garry and Jean-Luc with Julie Isbell (NPS) and Rosemary Presnar (chair of Hallowell's Conservation Commission). Working group also met just prior to MCC mtg tonight. The focus of discussion ultimately centered on determining the desired access points to the property. Possible access points include Kerns Hill Rd, Beacon Rd, CMP line off Kerns Hill Rd, the Res (Hallowell, Quarry Trail vs Pipeline Trail), or Pipeline Trail from the Manchester side (via Patch/Acorn Rds). Interest ultimately focused on Kerns Hill Rd as starting point, with possible initial goal of trail from Kerns Hill Rd access to the Pipeline Trail. Julie advised exploring pros/cons of different access points over next month. Garry plans to identify abutting private landowners, and he intends to seek input from Paul of the Manchester snowmobile club re: the area/local landowners. Julie, Garry, and Jeff J will have telephone conference prior to next MMC mtg. Another site visit will be planned for Jan or Feb 2020.
3. Jamie's Pond Forest Trail Extension clean-up: Successful w/ help of Hallowell Boy Scouts. Maple Hill Farm owner informed Garry that the public wishing to access trail from his property can park on Maple Hill Farm property for this purpose. Garry also reported that, separately, the trail to the bridge from another road access point has beaver activity that has negatively affected the trail near bridge. Jean-Luc reminded the group that the State of Maine IF+W dept must be notified prior to 'notching' dam. Any potential action re: beaver activity will be deferred til spring.
4. Garry reported on his and Shenna's presence on behalf of MCC at Manchester Fall Festival. New signs/banner may be needed for future events.
5. Recycling update: Manchester Selectmen forwarded their support of LD 1431 (re: extended producer responsibility related to packaging) to NRCM— NRCM now lists Manchester on NRCM website as among the towns supporting LD 1431. Garry notes the haulers do currently have mechanism to bring recycling to dedicated recycling area at Hatch Hill, but it remains unclear what discount—if any—they may receive for this. Manchester Town Manager will be calling Augusta Public Works Director to clarify hauler recycling rates. The \$7500 grant for recycling related capital investment must be used by FY 2021. No further action yet taken by town on possible ecomaine 'silver bullet' site or bids re: same. Fiberight in Hampden now operational and meeting its waste/recycling management obligations to already-contracted towns, per recent newspaper article. Sara will contact Fiberight to learn more about what the costs/logistics might be for involvement with Fiberight.
6. Planning Board update: (Jeff R not present)- Garry informed group of special town meeting Tuesday 12/10 to vote on proposed 180 day moratorium on cannabis growing facilities, to enable the Planning Board to develop rules to regulate such growing facilities. Garry also reported that the Selectmen are suggesting modifications to the TIF agreement re: how to spend TIF \$ on public projects.
7. Legislative update: (Shenna not present)- The new statewide Plastic Bag Ban goes into effect on Earth Day 4/22/20. Additionally, if violations are seen at the town level, one can inform the Town Manager for further action.

8. Discussion of possible Town Newsletter: Fred suggested creation of Town Newsletter, such as that from St. George, Maine, to communicate to residents what groups such as MCC and others are doing and to foster town spirit. Garry wondered if the Festival Committee might consider working on this, essentially in the role of gathering/editing submissions on perhaps quarterly or twice yearly basis from town groups such as MCC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Next meeting: January 2, 2020 at 7 pm @ Manchester Town Office.