

Manchester Conservation Commission
June 4, 2020 Meeting
Convened at 7:04 pm.

Members present (via teleconferencing in light of COVID-19): Fred Snow, Deb Plengey, Jeff Janell, Jean-Luc Theriault, Sara Kingdon.

Guests present: Garry Hinkley, Julie Isbill (NPS), Elizabeth Brown (NPS), Karen Simpson (Hallowell Conservation Commission), Tyler Trask, Paulie Heath.

1. Minutes from May 2020 meeting approved.
2. Manchester Town Forest Trails project (MTFTP):
 - a. Landowner contacts/relations: No formal written response yet received from CMP. The Town Manager will be contacting CMP to seek same. No further contact with the Gleason family yet. Garry will send letter to / call Nora Gleason. Garry spoke today with one of Ruth True's daughters (Pam), and then Mrs. True's daughter Paulie joined MCC for this meeting via teleconference. The Pipeline was discussed. Specifically, the Pipeline road is already a multi-use path (unrelated to MTFTP), but MCC is seeking permission from the True family to use the portion of the Pipeline road that goes through the True property as part of the MTFTP. Garry will send information from this MCC meeting to Pam. Draft maps reviewed.
 - b. Field work: Garry and Tyler's walks revealed a drop in the beaver pond level due to an unplugged culvert. Pictures of possible trail areas were reviewed. Tyler has been clearing branches and reports that the trail from Kerns Hill Rd to the Pipeline could be cleared in a fairly short time frame. Garry and Tyler will put up flags along this section so that MCC members can walk / review this in person if they choose.
 - c. Karen said she will let MCC know when she receives an update from Rosemary (Hallowell Conservation Commission) re: ownership of property along Beacon Rd and whether there is a public right of way along Beacon Rd. Julie asked about possible access to the MTFTP directly between the tower and the town land. Garry will find out who owns that area.
 - d. MCC anticipates applying for RTP grant next year.
 - e. RTCA renewal letter due by June 30, 2020: the letter needs to include what MCC has accomplished so far in planning for MTFTP and what MCC plans to do over the coming year for this project. Elizabeth will send examples of similar letters to Garry, and Garry/Jeff J will then send letter.
3. Trail in Summerhaven: Dept of Conservation is interested in re-establishing/re-building this multi-use trail, and a contribution of town funds may ultimately be requested. Garry will let MCC know if future MCC actions indicated.
4. CeMENEMBA trail work in Allen-Whitney (AW): Trail improvement work already planned using a grant CeMENEMBA received. The Board of Selectmen has suggested a contribution from the town (using MCC funds) to support additional trail work by CeMENEMBA in the AW. Garry explained that \$1,000 would result in nearly 2 days' worth of machine/crew work, likely in the Scribner Hill area. MCC voted to give \$1,000 from the MCC account to support this project. Deb suggested future improved signage at the AW, possibly boundary markers. Garry and Jean-Luc will look into getting boundary markers to place at the limits of AW property.
5. Garden Crest School Trail: Garry reported that the town is considering using TIF funds toward a community development project that would result in an enhanced trail (stroller and wheelchair accessible) between the Garden Crest community and the West Street school area. The project might include purchase of a house lot and possible bridge construction. MCC supports the town's pursuit of this project, which has been part of the town's longterm plan, using TIF funds.

6. Eagle Scout trail work at Jamies Pond: Garry has not heard back from the scout but will try to connect with him.

7. Unclaimed boats at trail properties: Jean-Luc noted that, in one month, he plans with the help of several interns to collect the unclaimed boats.

8. Boy Scouts' proposed Pond Rd cleanup, July: Garry was contacted by the Boy Scouts' leadership about a possible roadside cleanup project the troop would like to offer in July. MCC supports the use of MCC/town supplies (gloves, bags, vests) and a possible town-rented dumpster to facilitate this project.

9. Tyler has expressed interest in becoming an associate MCC member. The group supported his candidacy. Tyler will provide information to Garry, and Garry will discuss Tyler's possible appointment to MCC at the Board of Selectmen meeting June 9th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 7 pm.