

Manchester Conservation Commission

July 2, 2020 Meeting

Convened at 7:04 pm.

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

Guests present: Garry Hinkley, Julie Isbill (NPS), Elizabeth Brown (NPS), Rosemary Presnar (Hallowell Conservation Commission), Micah Wormell (Eagle Scout).

1. Manchester Town Forest Trails project (MTFTP)
 - a. Beacon Rd map/ownership: Map reviewed. It remains unclear if there is a public right of way on Beacon Rd. Rosemary plans to attend the Hallowell City Council property meeting next week, and she will update MCC thereafter regarding any information pertaining to the ownership of the 'triangle' part of Beacon Rd.
 - b. Landowner contacts/relations: No formal written response yet received from CMP. Letter was sent from MCC to Nora Gleason. No further response from the True or Gleason family yet. Julie advised that MCC needs to hear from the True family and CMP regarding proposed use of segments of their properties for MTFTP. She observed that landowner permission is necessary prior to more detailed trail planning. Garry indicated that assistance from town leadership may be provided in communicating with CMP. Discussion with CMP regarding possible parking is especially important.
 - c. Kerns Hill loop specifications/construction: From Kerns Hill Rd (near junction with Granite Hill Rd), to the Pipeline, to the CMP section, and back to Kerns Hill Rd is approximately 2 miles. The group discussed who the envisioned trail users might be. Julie mentioned that RTP is interested in trails that serve as many people as possible. Defining the anticipated users is important in order to determine how much to build the trails and what materials to use. This will, in turn, facilitate estimation of costs. Professional trailbuilders, such as Maine Conservation Corps and CeMENEMBA, were discussed. Elizabeth mentioned that the Professional Trailbuilders Association has listings by state. Julie suggested getting 2 estimates for trail work. Trail signs/kiosks will need to be considered as part of the estimates. Jeff J concluded that MCC needs to finalize ideas about what trail standards are desired for this project.
 - d. Parking: Discussion re: need for parking, possible sites— Kerns Hill Rd, CMP area. The professional trailbuilders may have ideas regarding parking arrangements. Garry suggested the Town might consider financial support of a parking area in the future.
 - e. RTCA renewal: Letter requesting renewal was submitted by MCC, and confirmation of extension of support was received, to continue at least through February, per Julie.
2. Eagle Scout trail work at Jamies Pond: Micah reported he had identified 29 stations and 2400 feet of proposed work area. He anticipates the work will be primarily clearing trails, but drainage and possible bridging of wet areas will also be needed. Micah expects to have about a dozen other scouts to help with the work, which he predicts will include moving materials with wheelbarrows and buckets. He noted that IF+W needs to approve his project before he can move forward with a proposed budget and acquisition of materials. Garry will set up a meeting with Micah and Keel Kemper (IF+W). Rosemary added that there might be funds available from Hallowell to assist in this project.
3. Minutes from the June 4, 2020 MCC meeting were reviewed and approved.
4. CeMENEMBA trail work in Allen-Whitney (AW): Trail improvement work, including new bridging, new trails, new features, and drainage work, has been done. Garry notes there has been both positive feedback about the work and a notable increase in use of the trails.
5. Boy Scouts' Pond Rd cleanup: Planned for August 8, 2020, 9-11 am, starting at Mulligans. Garry will make sure they have bags, vests, and gloves. No dumpster is needed.

6. Garden Crest School Trail: Nothing new to report, per Garry.

7. Summerhaven ATV trail: Nothing new to report, per Garry.

8. MCC memberships/officers: The Board of Selectmen approved Tyler Trask as an associate member of MCC. A review of MCC membership terms/expiration dates and a review of MCC officer positions is anticipated at the August meeting.

9. Garry noted that Town Meeting will be July 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Manchester Elementary School. Agenda items will include marijuana cultivation, land use regulations, and discussion of acceptance of Smith Road as a Town road.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 7 pm.