

Manchester Conservation Commission  
September 3, 2020 Meeting  
Convened at 7:00 pm.

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

Guests present: Garry Hinkley, Julie Isbill (NPS), Elizabeth Brown (NPS), Nina Young (Maine Farmland Trust – MFT), Jackie Dougherty.

1. MFT: Overview of the organization's history, mission, and goals provided by Nina. MFT accepts recreational opportunities on some farmland, such as trails at the edge of a field or mountain climbing access. Signs placed at the perimeter of a farm can explain the farm and provide exposure to farm-based activities for those using recreational trails, for example. Regarding the Gleason property, specifically, it would not qualify for MFT-related easement (absence of important soils, also not much open land).
2. Manchester Town Forest Trails project (MTFTP):
  - a. Garry, Jeff R, Jeff J, Jean-Luc, Fred, and Tyler walked the Kerns Hill—>Pipeline—>Beacon trail in August and considered trail modifications, especially as suggested by Jean-Luc. Based on Jean-Luc's advice, Tyler and/or Garry will flag a modified route from the Kerns Hill access point to the Pipeline, and then the group will re-walk the new loop. Tyler and/or Garry will notify the group when the newly flagged/refined route is ready to review.
  - b. Julie reported that the contract with the Center for GIS is done. The map was reviewed, focusing on the "Kerns Hill Rd Loop Trail." Julie and Garry discussed developing a short connector trail from the "Kerns Hill Rd Loop Trail" to the 'junkyard' area. This connector would keep the trail on Town land and would enable access from the 'junkyard' area to the Res (Hallowell).
  - c. Landowner contacts/relations: No formal written response yet received from CMP. Garry/Town leadership will again try to contact CMP, using the updated GIS map to facilitate this conversation and to discuss parking needs and possible CMP corridor trail improvements. Shenna also offered to contact CMP if needed through other avenues. Julie advised that MCC follow-up with the True family regarding the Pipeline section. She will contact Jeff J about communicating with the True family.
  - d. Garry confirmed that CeMeNEMBA would be interested ultimately in developing more trails in the section closer to the CMP corridor. He anticipates they would seek an RTP grant to build those trails in sections. Garry will explore with CeMeNEMBA possible timelines and availability for trail making.
  - e. Parking: Julie suggested the trail will need parking spaces on Kerns Hill Rd. Garry indicated the Town will likely support construction of a parking area, possibly with 3 spaces.
3. Community Garden: Per Garry, Selectman Doug Ide proposed consideration of a Community Garden for Manchester. Garry discussed the existing Hallowell model of a Community Garden. He noted that there does not appear to be Town owned land available in Manchester for the project, but the Town could seek partnerships with local farmers/landowners to develop this project.
  - a. To gauge Manchester residents' potential level of interest in such a project, Garry will first draft a short survey and circulate the draft to MCC members for comment. The survey information may be provided at the polling station in November, and it could also be communicated via postings in other locations, such as the Town office, the school, and possibly the post office. The survey link would ultimately be on the Town website.
  - b. Deb will ask her contacts in the farming community about possible available land.
  - c. Deb and Fred both emphasized consideration of school property for a possible Community Garden location, as both a central location and as an educational opportunity.
  - d. Julie said that the NPS program also works on Community Garden projects.

- e. Nina and Deb both commented that local farmers are often willing to donate manure and labor with heavy machinery to help start Community Gardens.
- f. Julie, Fred, and Deb noted the value of raised beds as a strategy for Community Gardens.

4. LED Street Light project: Garry reported there is a signed contract in place to install the LED lights. The Town is awaiting contractor availability to begin project implementation.

5. Outlet Bridge work: The new guardrails and No Parking signs have been installed. No landscaping is planned, per Garry. Jackie commented that another No Parking sign is needed, as is road repair work at the site. Behaviors at the bridge seem to have improved.

6. Recycling/Municipal waste: Sara reported an update from TJ Troiano. He indicated that Troiano Waste Services is working with the Town of Gardiner to develop a joint plan to present to DEP regarding the wetlands issue at the Libby Hill site, with the goal ultimately to develop a Transfer Station at the site.

7. Eagle Scout trail work at Jamies Pond: Tyler reported that crushed stone has been delivered. He indicated that Micah (Eagle Scout) suspects bridge work may not be feasible. Garry will contact Micah for further updates.

8. MCC membership: Garry will present Jackie Dougherty to the BOS as a proposed associate member of MCC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 7 pm.