

Manchester Conservation Commission
February 6, 2020 meeting
Convened at 6:43 pm.

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

1. Minutes from January 2, 2020 MCC meeting reviewed and approved.

2. Update on Town Forest Trails project:

MCC subgroup met at 6 pm, with Julie Isbill (NPS) present by phone. Garry reported his communication with CMP staff— CMP supports recreational, non-motorized use of the CMP-owned right of way. (Snowmobiles are already permitted but not ATVs.) CMP requests a letter with proposals. Julie added that CMP generally does not allow digging on its sites or work near their towers. Garry reviewed possible parking areas near the Town Forest. He confirmed that Manchester is acquiring from Augusta the tower at the end of Beacon Way and will be using this tower as a repeater for emergency services. Garry also indicated the Mountain Bike club may seek a grant for 2021 to help with the Town Forest Trails project. Julie presented her Mapping Proposal for the project, suggesting an overall “Context Map,” a “Property Ownership Map,” a “Trail Map,” and “Maps for Grant Applications.” Jeff R recommended marking wetlands on the maps (could use the National Wetlands Inventory), and he suggested the Maine Natural Areas Program as a resource for adding local highlights to the maps. Funding is available per Julie for mapping assistance, possibly to use for a contract with the Center for Community GIS. Jean-Luc will call his contact with the Center, to request a proposal (including possible time line) and to share the maps he already has for this project. Julie will help facilitate the funding for this. The MCC subgroup plans to walk the property again on March 5, 2020.

3. Solid Waste updates:

- a. Discussion re: withdrawal from DEP grant which had been awarded previously to support hauler use of ecomaine recycling at a designated site in town. Given that Hatch Hill (HH) is now allowing small haulers to bring recycling to HH, and given the anticipated significant costs to the town (beyond the grant funds) to support a local ecomaine option for the haulers, the group agreed to withdraw from the grant, with the intent to pursue in the near future an alternate grant with DEP. April and the Town Manager will communicate this withdrawal via letter to Maine DEP. During conference call in January 2020, Jim Guerra at DEP informed the town and MCC that these DEP grants cannot be used to pay tipping fees or hauling costs but can be used for advertising, mailings, purchase of recycling bins and other recycling-related infrastructure. April and Sara discussed possible ideas for a future grant request, with a focus on schools and community education: educational materials for residents, new-resident recycling welcome kits, recycling bins for home use, school based composting and school based recycling efforts, school use of non-disposable materials for serving meals. Currently the elementary school does not do composting or have a ‘green team.’ April will contact the school to gauge their potential interest in recycling/composting projects and to determine how they currently dispose of trash/recycling. She noted the Onion Foundation is another potential partner for recycling-related grants. Shenna communicated previously by email that Maranacook middle school principal Kristen Levesque identified a potential use of grant funding for recycling bins and a cart to haul those bins.
- b. April has not yet heard back from Augusta Public Works re: report on #Manchester residents with HH permits and yearly tonnage from those residents. Garry will discuss with Manchester Town Manager, potentially asking Town Manager to seek this information from Augusta. April has also asked the haulers to provide reports on their recycling tonnage.
- c. Sara reported on further discussion re: Fiberight/Coastal Resources of Maine with Mike Carroll (Executive Director MRC), especially regarding ‘estimated delivery amount’ — ie, the

anticipated MSW tonnage from a town of Manchester's size. He suggested the town of Carmel as an appropriate comparator, with a population approx 2700-2800. In 2018, Carmel's MSW commitment was 1222 tons, and in 2019 they delivered 1236 tons. Mr. Carroll noted there is no penalty for bringing in more MSW to Fiberight's facility than the contracted amount. According to the national EPA, the average MSW daily production per person is 4.51 lbs. Assuming a Manchester population of approx 2550, this would be 2000-2100 tons of MSW annually. Mr. Carroll suggested that if Manchester did want to join MRC in the future, he could include in the contract a 'pilot' program, where we measured our MSW delivery for a couple months before determining the annual commitment amount. Mr. Carroll expects the new contracts (for potential new towns joining MRC) to become available in the late spring. Sara will check back on this in a few months.

- d. No further information so far re: potential transfer station at Libby Hill. Sara will continue to contact Troiano to request an update.

4. LD 1973 (bill proposing updates re: membership, duties, and powers of Municipal Conservation Commissions): Fred reported that, after a hearing, subsequent meetings with interested parties (including Maine Farm Bureau and MMA), and efforts to modify the bill based on concerns expressed by those parties, the bill was ultimately killed.

5. Planning Board updates:

- a. Jeff R reported that the changes to the wetlands ordinance were adopted as drafted (see also prior MCC minutes from January 2020). The changes now allow the Planning Board to put in more protections for wetlands. A public hearing on the changes will be scheduled.
- b. Work on possible regulations regarding cannabis grow sites/businesses continues. Some of the rules will come from the State, such as regulations regarding security. Jeff R noted that, regarding odors related to this industry, the State only requires that there be a plan, but no specific standard exists, so the Planning Board continues to consider options.
- c. Jeff informed the group that the Planning Board will be considering changes to the solar ordinance. Specifically, there is discussion of possibly increasing the acreage cap on solar installations. Maine Audubon is working on a draft ordinance for solar projects, so this may become a reference.

6. Other: April will update the MCC membership listing on the Town website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Next meeting March 5, 2020 at 7 pm at the Town Office.