

Manchester Conservation Commission

March 7, 2109

Present: Garry Hinkley, Deborah Plengey, Annie Reiter, Jeff Reardon, Shenna Bellows, Sara Kingdon (assoc), Fred Snow (assoc), Jeff Janell

Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved.

Polystyrene Proposal--There was an informational hearing this evening prior to the MCC meeting but there were no attendees from the public who expressed concern. There will be a public hearing in April at a selectman meeting.

There were concerns that some businesses in town are attempting to circumvent the plastic bag ordinance by offering "reusable" plastic bags. Ordinance does use the phrase "single use". We will review our ordinance as well as notify state wide policy makers. There is a statewide ban proposed in the Legislature that as written would supersede any local ordinance.

Sara gave report on the Gardiner meeting regarding Hatch Hill member towns. We pay \$28,500 from Manchester, other towns also pay into per capita fee. It was reported that the meeting was quite contentious as a private hauler and the city of Augusta became defensive about the findings of a report on fee structures involved. They also refused to provide data as a rebuttal stating it is "proprietary information". We will continue to investigate long term options for solid waste disposal and recycling. We will invite some representative from Troiano to talk about their planned operations. They are proposing to engage with a company that offers means of biofuel extraction from solid waste, some recycling, and ultimately minimal waste disposal. We also found out that it is unlikely that Hatch Hill will allow haulers to bring their recycling in for a reduced fee. We will apply for a small grant from DEP to bring about waste reduction and recycling, MCC interpretation is that they want some actual result from this money, not just a study. Will consider using it to reinstate the Silver Bullet on private property for use of haulers.

Kennebec West—Nancy Smith from GrowSmart met with Annie to look at status of grants and Kennebec West. The town has offered April Gay to assist with gathering data to support efforts to develop the Farm Friendly test. They continue to look at right to farm issues. There is a challenge in providing support to farmers when they don't necessarily turn out, ask for help, or get involved in the process. Conflicts between the state right to farm law and local ordinances were discussed.

Roadside cleanup will be April 27th. There will be an initial run through by the Boy Scouts on April 20th that Garry, Jean-Luc, and Deb will support. We will get coffee and donuts in the morning, need to make sure that we have gloves. We will do an inventory of supplies that are in the trailers. Garry requests that we keep an eye on signs in the traffic island. Will ask Fire Station to put on notice marquee.

Garry continues to attend trails meetings with Hallowell Res,. They are doing survey work to find out exactly where lot lines and right of ways are in the "jumble of properties" in certain parts of the property. Signage is going in and mountain bike club is looking to put in work on the Manchester side.

Discussed MCC budget for next year. There is already roadside cleanup, misc, and fees in the budget. We discuss if we would include any funds for recycling in the budget, will access grant funds for now. We will consider how to support the Friends of Cobbossee with their boat monitoring program, whether it can go into town budget.

Legislature is studying a carbon pricing bill, as well as how to head towards carbon neutral status. Gross metering is reportedly to be eliminated and net metering returned for solar power. LMF bond is being formulated.

No news from planning board. There will be a walk through prior to the next select board meeting on April 9th on a potential side walk in front of the town offices.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.