

May 5, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm. Present: Deb Plengey, Annie Reiter, Jeff Janelle, Shenna Bellows and Fred Snow

- I. Minutes for April were approved.

- II. Roadside Clean-Up: Great turnout (over 55 people showed up). Many thanks to the Cub Scouts, Hope Baptist Church, Kennebec Savings and the Snowmobile Club brought a number of volunteers! The Manchester Apple Orchard (4 dozen donuts), the Dunkin Donuts (4 coffee) and Pizza Stone (11 pizzas) donated the food. The snowmobile club filled a trailer with tires. Much of the trash was from businesses, especially contractors with demolition waste. Annie volunteered to do thank you notes to the groups. Shenna will send contact info to Annie before Friday. Next year we will purchase our own bags (contractor bags) and 50 pairs of gloves and 20 pairs of kids gloves. We will also encourage people to bring separate bags for recyclables/bottles and trash separately. We will definitely continue to ask groups to participate. We might encourage Camden to compete with Kennebec! Thanks everyone for another big year!

- III. Gardencrest Neighborhood Trail Proposal: There's been some possible interest in a connecting trail to connect Gardencrest with Cross Street. This would be a strict transportation trail (footpath) to let kids from Gardencrest walk to school through the trail.
 - a. Question about whether we could create tax break to create incentives for landowners to do that or use funds from the conservation fund to leverage matching funds.
 - b. Jeff walked the trail, and there is an existing trail, so it may not require a great deal of work except around the drainage stream, which is big enough to require an actual bridge, which is at least the size of what we constructed at Shedd. Aside from the bridge, there will need to be bog bridges. Deb asked if there's a possibility of working with the Rec Committee. The Snowmobile Club has a trail in the woods as well and coordination could happen there.
 - c. There was consensus that we'd need to ensure a permanent or semi-permanent agreement with landowners. Annie asked about rare and threatened species, but it is recently field, definitely not old growth forest.
 - d. Shenna Bellows moved that we support the proposal, pending an agreement or easement. Annie Reiter seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. Our role is supporting and consulting Pat and Jeremy.

- e. We then discussed whether it was appropriate for the conservation funds in amount of \$3,000 to be used for this project. There was a question of how much money is in the account. There was also a question about how the funds might be split for other non-conservation projects. We also discussed whether there were conservation projects that we want to designate these funds for. We also discussed whether Fielder's Choice might contribute to the project. If a decision is necessary before our next meeting, we will discuss via email. There was a conversation about how this trail is in conformity with the open space plan, but it's not traditional conservation. Does Rec have money, and would they sponsor the project with some money? We agreed to table and revisit at our next meeting.

- IV.** Pesticide Ordinance Prep for Town Meeting: Fred volunteered to prepare draft handouts for the meeting. Deb will contact the contractor about some of the details in ensuring that the lawn care plans and protocol are appropriate for organic care of sports fields. Shenna volunteered to change the Manchester Roadside Cleanup Facebook page to the Manchester Conservation Commission page and post Fred's info about the ordinance on that.

- V.** Grants: Annie brought information about the National Park Service community assistance grant program. The grant is not financial but rather human resources and organizing and technical assistance support. We decided that we don't have the right project at this time.

- VI.** Shedd Pond: Jeff Janell is evaluating whether to rebuild the granite bridge and may ask Deb for use of the tractor.

- VII.** Discussed Manchester school ice cream social on June 7. Deb suggested a trail map and a sign that says "local place to hike" and that could be our presence given that no one is available to staff it.

- VIII.** Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.