

Manchester Conservation Commission Meeting

August 4, 2016

Present: Garry Hinkley, Shenna Bellows, Annie Reiter, Jeff Janell, Jean- Luc Theriault and Fred Snow

- I. June notes reviewed.
- II. Status of Conservation and Woods Accounts: The select board wants to reach some resolution about what accounts can be used for and how funds can be expended. Language in the comp plan indicates it should be used for conservation and open space preservation. There was significant consensus on the commission that this money should be reserved for conservation purposes in the future and support for clarity around the process. Garry has requested the town's forestry management plan. Garry will endeavor to monitor this.
 - Woods Reserve Account: \$104,395 balance. Money in the conservation and woods account created in 2007 from timber harvest.
 - Conservation Account: \$18,976 balance.
 - We discussed town-owned land and the new acquisition on Kerns Hill, the back of which abuts the junkyard and links to the Pipeline. Jean-Luc offered to review town-owned parcels. There may be opportunity to develop new recreational connectors and opportunities.
- III. Allen-Whitney Forest: Jean-Luc provided a map. The harvest is nearing completion, and the hemlock was removed. The Mountain Bike club hired an intern to clear some brush from one of the trails. Garry will try to organize a work day for trails in November between the election and Thanksgiving. Jean-Luc is coordinating with the snowmobile club about the bridge. The stone bridge is going to be lost because of erosion and high rain events ruining the sides with high levels of sediment going into the pond. Garry will check in with the historical society about the bridge. The granite will be preserved.
- IV. Jamie's Pond Update: No new updates since the walkabout. Harvesting may have started. Garry participated in the walkabout. A quarter of the biomass may be removed. The pledge is to cut when the ground is dry or frozen. Hemlock off of Collins Road will not be touched nor will forest closer to the pond, and they will protect the rare tortoise habitat. The state's purported interest is the wildlife.
- V. The lawn care handout is on the website. Nice job, Fred. Garry will remind Pat to print a few copies to have at the town office. The pesticide ordinance didn't make it onto the warrant, but the town did adopt it as a policy, and they have been following it on the ballfields. There are some questions around actual protocol.
- VI. Fall work day: We agreed we should do a work day in November.
- VII. Recycling Review: Manchester is fairly steady at 9 tons per month or 8 pounds per person per year. We discussed whether it would make sense for us to invest in an additional pick up. We discussed location.
- VIII. At the next meeting, we'll discuss the comp plan.
- IX. Membership: Annie and Jeff Janell need to renew.
- X. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm. The next meeting is Thursday, September 1.