

Manchester Conservation Commission

Meeting Notes

Feb. 5, 2016

The Manchester Conservation Commission held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 4th at 7pm at the town office.

The following members were present: Garry Hinkley, Jeff Reardon, Jeff Janelle, Jean-Luc Theriault, Deb Plengey, Annie Reiter, Shenna Bellows, and Fred Snowe.

We welcomed Jean-Luc Theriault to the commission, and everyone introduced themselves. Jean-Luc is the volunteer steward director for KLT.

Acceptance of the minutes of the January meeting were deferred until the March meeting.

Draft pesticides ordinance. The MCC basically is satisfied with the draft. Still need to discuss with the Rec Committee and their contractor. Garry will contact Pat for the contractor's contact information in order to share the draft. The contractor is Sports Field Maintenance Inc. from Monmouth. The deadline for submitting a draft ordinance for town meeting is Friday, April 29th. We will try to discuss with Rec in the meantime, perhaps the next meeting.

Solar Ordinance. Fred and Jeff R. presented additional information relative to a possible solar installation ordinance. Fred provided statistics on residential electricity usage, compared to rooftop solar capability. The typical home would need less than 10KW hour system. The draft posited a three tier system. Residential systems less than 10 KW would be exempt except for usual building code requirements. Medium and large scale projects would have additional regulations. It was noted that there should be an opportunity for exemptions. In any event, the draft ordinance needs work, and the Planning Board probably is not ready to take it up in time for the 2016 town meeting. It is possible that an ordinance is not even needed. However, as the technology improves, the likelihood of projects increases.

Planning Board Update. Jeff R reported on the Dollar General project being proposed for Rt 202 near the copy center. Concerns about maintaining architectural standards and runoff into Cobbossee Lake. Project is on a fairly fast track. Construction could start in the spring.

Logging update. Logging continues in the Allen-Whitney Forest along Scribner Hill Rd, Shedd Pond side. Some concerns about erosion due to soft ground. Jeff R reported that the work seems reasonable given the conditions. No recent activity at the other AW site on Worthing Road, but the landing still is open. Jean-Luc reported that logging continues on the Regan property, with cutting moving toward the Mears brook side. We will have to assess trail conditions and opportunities after the harvests are finished.

Roadside Cleanup. Roadside cleanup is scheduled for April 30th starting at 9am. Shenna will contact the usual groups, and some businesses for donations. Jeff J. will contact the HS clubs. Deb will make a poster. Garry will coordinate with Pat for the dumpsters and supplies.

MEACCA meeting. Fred reported that the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions also will meet on April 30th in Brunswick. Nancy Olmstead will speak on invasive plants. Fred will represent Manchester.

Cobbossee Water District Trustee. Garry noted that the town is looking for someone to represent Manchester on the CWD.

Next meeting is March 3rd at 7pm. Jean-Luc will provide an update on KLT projects.

GRH