

MANCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting May 7, 2015

Garry Hinkley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. on May 7, 2015.
Attending – Garry Hinkley, Jeff Reardon, Fred Snow, Jeff Janell, Stephanie Ralph

The March and April minutes were approved.

Roadside Cleanup

Conservation Commission has been organizing the cleanup day since 2006, and this year's participation by 70 people was probably the highest ever. Contacting organized groups seemed to be a large factor in the turnout. Hope Baptist Church, Kennebec Savings Bank, the snowmobile club and boy scouts were well represented. Garry will ask Pat for the tonnage of the materials cleaned up and disposed. Shenna is sending thank you letters to groups that participated.

Recommendations for next year

Two trucks to pick up bags are probably sufficient. Most groups brought back their own collections.

Snow mobile club members tackled the largest items and had trucks.

Trucks should carry extra bags for distribution to groups.

Bought additional gloves and hand sanitizer.

Add Upper Prescott Rd. to assignments and think about 202 if there is a crew who can work safely in the heavy traffic conditions.

Order pizza for 11:30 and remind people it will be there. Many people had already left this year. Church group chose to provide their own lunch.

Discussion with Recreation Committee

Garry attended a Recreation Committee meeting and representatives will come to a future meeting to discuss pesticide use on the town athletic fields and are interested in trails, healthy activities, and bike paths.

Healthy Maine Walks update

Organization hosts a web site describing walks and trails. The McArdle street area is listed, and Garry added a nice description of Shedd Pond.. Individuals can become "walk liaisons" and enter descriptions. www.healthymainewalks.com

RTP grant wrap up

This project is completed. Expenses exceeded the grant by about \$400 to \$600. The Healthy Maine funds received for completing the RALA survey covered \$250 of the additional expenses.

Garry will follow up with Pat on our discussion of two town accounts called the Woods Account and Conservation Account which receive funds from timber harvesting on town lands. And might provide match funds for a grant. Select Board approves use of fund.

Quimby grant status

The Commission will apply in August for a health-related grant. The fiscal agent would be Healthy Communities of the Capital Area. Garry has notified Jon Lund of the Hallowell Conservation Commission.

Pesticide proposal – Fred Snow

Fred would like commission members to educate themselves about alternatives to pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. Members could also learn what other towns, colleges, etc. are doing in preparation for drafting a proposed policy to present to the Select Board and meeting with the Rec Committee. Look for any lists of recommended products.

Resources

Beyond Pesticides, Washington D.C. Useful web site, material for sale on DVD.
Ogunquit's ordinance.

Fred will bring suggested language to the next meeting.
Stephanie will contact person from Bowdoin College.

Upcoming Events

May 16th - Hazardous waste drop off in Augusta

June 13th - Trail cleanup project with Hallowell, Jamies Pond. Garry replied that some of us would come. Helpful to bring loppers, zip saws, work gloves.

June 6th 9 a.m. Family Mountain Bike Day at the RES. A family affair with some loaner bikes, food, Bicycle Coalition of Maine

May 9th - MEACC meeting in Brunswick.

Planning Board update

Proposed 6 lot subdivision on Cobbossee – Lakeview Heights at 492 Pond Rd. Lots of wetlands in the area and runoff issues. Cobbossee Watershed District and one neighbor have expressed concerns / opposition.

Karate studio wants to put a small addition on back. It is close to the stream, and Charlie Hippler is concerned about
Anticipating a rebuilding plan from Mulligans.

Ordinance revisions – Hydric Soils put off, probably until next year.

Other Business

Readfield Conservation Comm. will invite Wayne and Manchester to a joint meeting

Solid waste is likely to become a town issue again, and Pat is reviewing options.
Augusta now using single stream. Riverside putting in a facility nearby

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.