

Manchester Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting, September 3, 2015

1. Garry Hinkley called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. On August 6, 2015.  
Attending: Garry Hinkley, Jeff Reardon, Deb Plengey, Shenna Bellows, Annie Reiter, Fred Snow, Jeff Janell

Guests: Prospective member Jim Cumming, emeritus member Stephanie Ralph

2. Minutes of August meeting were approved.
3. Grants:
  - a. A letter of inquiry to the Quimby Family Foundation was submitted on September 1 with help from Annie and Shenna in hopes of securing funding for a collaboration between the Hallowell and Manchester conservation commissions for a trails consultant and a Maine Conservation Corps environmental steward or community leader to assist in surveying and planning trail connections in the Jamies Pond area to link the two communities. We need to put together a formal letter of agreement with our fiscal sponsor, Healthy Communities of the Capital Area (HCCA) and the Hallowell Conservation Commission. Shenna volunteered to contact HCCA to get a model agreement and prepare something for review at the October meeting. Shenna also shared with the group that we need a human-interest story for the application about the property. Deb suggested that we contact Don Smith on the Prescott Road who might have stories about Jamies Pond. Jeff suggested talking to Sam Day, a College of the Atlantic student, who might have a good story and grew up on the reservoir property. Methias Deming is a student from West Gardiner who might also tell a good story.
  - b. The RTP grant is due in January. We discussed the potential work in re-opening trails in the Allan Hill area for skiing, snow shoeing and biking. Garry has been doing some work this summer to reclaim the trails, but there is one trail that runs parallel to the Knowles Road and gives access to Allan Hill that requires more work including a culvert and some bypasses around wet spots. It would be nice to clear brush out from the trail now before the snow falls, and Deb noted that this is a particularly dry time for clearing.
  - c. Garry did contact Virginia Vincent for the Landowner Appreciation Clean-up Contest on September 12 for a Summerhaven clean-up, but the trash in that area is not substantial. It turns out that they are

looking for major dump sites, and there isn't really anything like that in Manchester. It's unlikely we will participate.

4. Allen-Whitney Forest: NEFF started logging the property. They're taking mature hemlock.
5. Planning board update: The property across from Myrtle will be before the planning board this month, possibly on September 15. The planning board is interested in putting together a solar ordinance. The solar ordinance as drafted would allow solar panels in any zone subject to the same rules that apply to any other structure. It's been suggested that the planning board also write an ordinance for commercial facilities or solar farms. There will be a public hearing before planning board approval. Fred will pull together materials on this issue to bring to the next meeting.
6. Pesticide demonstration project: Fred expressed interest in knowing what the Rec Committee actually does on town-owned land. It would be good to engage the Rec Committee on this. Garry will ask Pat for the contract to see what happens. Fred volunteered to put together a packet and a draft policy from Ogunquit to submit to the conservation commission for consideration to work toward a policy to submit to the select board for their consideration.
7. Other: Annie broached Woolwich's new pay as you throw policy. Annie will go on the website and find out more.
8. Next meeting is October 1. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07.