

Minutes of the Manchester Conservation Commission
September 1, 2016

Present: Garry Hinckley, Jeff Reardon, Jean-Luc Theriault, Deb Plengey, Shenna Bellows, Fred Snow, Jeff Janell

- I. August minutes moved and accepted.
- II. Conservation Account: Everyone generally agrees that a percentage of wood harvesting should go to conservation account, and people generally agree that the funds should be used for conservation purposes. Members of the select board do not agree on how appropriations may be made, and Lee Bragg, the town attorney, will discuss this at the September 13 select board meeting, which Garry will attend.
- III. Stone Bridge: Jean-Luc met with Paul Giguere of the snowmobile club, and they're moving back to the original idea of resetting the stone bridge with equipment that members of the club have and gravel for walkers – a temporary solution. Funds don't currently exist for bridge replacement. Garry did investigate the historical nature of the bridge with the historical society, and they did not have significant concerns. The historical society is discovering and reclaiming old cemeteries.
- IV. Planning Board: Dollar General is moving forward with construction. Tom Choate has proposed a permit for expansion of his storage facility but will likely need to submit more information before approval because of proximity to a stream. Manchester Motors' failure to develop their open site with stormwater arrangements has triggered a discussion of financial capacity in the ordinance because of concerns about run-off.
- V. Discussed Keep Maine Clean initiative launched on August 30 with a focus on roadside trash pickup.
- VI. E-Waste Recycling Event: Discussed the October 1 e-waste recycling at the Augusta Civic Center on October 1 and decided to put that out on the town website if possible and create a poster.
- VII. Apple Festival on September 24.
- VIII. Comprehensive Plan Discussion:
 - a. Natural Resources: Open Space: Deb Plengey discussed her farmland and her desire to protect it and/or to see it farmed. We discussed other parcels in Manchester and noted that most of Manchester's farmers are subsistence farmers.
 1. Fred suggested it might be useful to check in with Maine Farmland Trust and volunteered to investigate what options might be.
 2. Jeff Janell noted that there are other high value lands in Manchester. Jeff agreed to
- IX. Meeting with Bill Babbitt, Maranacook teacher who is interested in doing a project with eleven of his junior class students on Wednesday, September 21, and his

group is interested in helping with Manchester trails. Garry shared that we're going to be doing some work in the Allen Whitney forest and arranged for Chris Reilly from Maine Mountain Bike Club to be there with his trailer and tools. Chris wants to do some berming on the trail that runs through the pine forest. Garry also wants to see some continued brushing with a brushhog and then hand finish. Deb volunteered to go in the weekend before. Discussed Allen Hill and Monks Hill and clearing of some of the limbs to allow passage. Plan is to meet at the church parking lot about 8 am and work until around 2 pm. School will bring lunches. Jean-Luc will coordinate KLT support and may coordinate with Cheryl Marviney's group to have both groups work there. Garry, Annie and Jean-Luc will all be there. Garry will check on church for bathroom use. Garry will ask Annie to sign up as a volunteer with the school to be allowed to do courier work. Garry will check on gloves. We discussed goals for the project including making it enjoyable, so that they want to participate in these types of activities in the future.

X. The meeting adjourned on at 8:18 pm.