



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

CONSERVATION COMMISSION • TOWN HALL
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts 01944-1399
Telephone (978) 526-4397 FAX (978) 526-2001

Open Space and Recreation Committee

April 5, 2021 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92247628324?pwd=WmE0VDdiUU91YjltUmhmZk5DeG83dz09>

Meeting ID: 922 4762 8324

Passcode: 358252

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Helen Bethell, Olga Hayes, Steve Gang, Deb Fraize, Curtis Rising, Sheila Linehan

Members Absent: Parker Harrison

Others Present: Mary Reilly, OSRC Staff

Olga Hayes, Acting Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm

- Meeting Minutes
 - No minutes were available for review
- Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
 - Mary reminded everyone to answer the Doodle Poll that was sent out by Courtney Lewis regarding Open Space and Recreation Plan Advisory Group Meeting so a date could be finalized. She noted that the main item to be reviewed during that meeting would be the draft 2021 OSRP Action Plan.
- Cape Ann Trail Stewards (CATS) Trail Stewardship Program
 - Mary explained that Mike McDonagh of CATS had written up draft stewardship plan (or agreement) for helping maintain several of Manchester's open space properties. (The file was sent to members of the OSRC prior to the meeting.) CATS would provide much-needed structure for maintaining at least some of our more popular open spaces.
 - Curtis said that he would like to be the lead contact for the Trail Stewardship program.
- Updates on Shingle Place Hill 40-B Proposal
 - Steve gave an update on the vernal pool study that is occurring to assess the pools and their populations at the proposed 40-B site. There are also vernal pool populations in nearby MECT properties which could potentially be impacted by development on Shingle Place Hill.
 - Ashley Ochs, a Town resident has been researching information that could be relevant to the Lincoln Street well. The well obtains 10 to 20% of its water from Sawmill Brook, the remainder from groundwater.
 - Ashley has applied to the state to make Sawmill Brook an Outstanding Resource Water which would give it certain additional protections.

- Gordon College Property: Brief review and discussion of planning a proactive approach.
 - Helen led the discussion on the importance of protecting the town's water supply (Gravelly and Round Ponds). Development of the Gordon College parcel, located in the northwest corner of Manchester, could adversely affect the town's drinking water supply.
 - Helen submitted an Action Plan to the OSRC (AN ACTION PLAN FOR PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER) which summarized the current status and noted that in the near term, the OSRC and Conservation Commission should engage the Planning Board to adopt stricter environmental regulations in the LCD.
 - Horsley Witten Hegeman wrote a report on Water Resources in Manchester in 1999, which included recommendations that should be taken to protect these important resources. Helen reported that the town had not followed through on the recommendations and that the report was effectively shelved.
 - Olga asked what specifically the OSRC could do given that the committee does not have authority over these issues.
 - Helen said that we might meet with Sue Brown to start and noted that it is also important to involve the ConCom. She suggested putting a packet together to submit to various town boards (BOS, Planning, ZBA, ConCom).
 - Sheila volunteered to help write a letter that could go to the Cricket and be posted to various Facebook groups.
- Schedule next meeting
 - The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 5/10.
 - Steve and Deb will co-host the next meeting.
- Movement to adjourn was made by Sheila at 7:38 pm; Seconded by Olga.

Referenced Files:

- CATS MBTS Trail Stewardship Program Draft - sg edits 3-29-21
- AN ACTION PLAN FOR PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER (Helen Bethell)