

MANCHESTER COASTAL STREAM TEAM
Minutes of April 10, 2023
Virtual, 7:15 pm

Members present: Jessica Lamothe, Chair; Lynn Atkinson; Francie Caudill; Deb Fraize; Carolyn Kelly; Patti Mitchell

Members absent: Joan Nesbit

Also present: Barbara Warren; Michele Kulick; Steve Gang; Peter Gourdeau; Chris Comb; Jeff Pope; Charlie Wear

Chair Lamothe called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm

Cell Signaling Technology Presentation

Jessica introduced Peter Gourdeau and the team from Cell Signaling Technology, who made a presentation about the proposed construction project on the property they have purchased at the end of Atwater Ave, in Manchester's Limited Commercial District.

- They explained that the company does cellular research and produces antibodies and diagnostic tools for medical and other scientific purposes.
- Peter Gourdeau showed the current plan for the lab campus, explaining that they plan to build only on the previously disturbed quarry site, leaving the 29 acres of surrounding forested land entirely untouched. Walking trails will connect from the building site to the existing trails on Trustees' land.
- Charlie Wear described all the features which will protect nearby Sawmill and Cat Brooks from stormwater run-off, and trap sediments before they leave the property, both during construction and during future operations. There will be no transfer of wastewater into the surrounding groundwater. The heating system will be geothermal, and he stated that their plans will result in a huge improvement in water quality, quantity and lower the temperature of water in Cat Brook.
- Chris Comb gave more details and said they hope to procure all permits to start construction by the end of 2023, with the buildings and surrounding landscaping ready for operations late in 2025, or early 2026.

Members of the Stream Team asked several questions:

- Will there be blasting? Yes, but limited, and low-charge, during the initial construction period.
- Will they seek a CR on the forested land? Perhaps, but they have no plans to ever develop those 29 acres.
- How will stormwater infiltration work on that land where there is predominant ledge? They probed the entire area and found 3 large pockets of land between areas of ledge, which have deep soils and will allow for infiltration basins and a large rain garden.
- How much grading will be done? No materials will be removed from the site, but some gravel and loam will be brought in for the landscaping of this severely disturbed site.
- Has there been testing of the soils that exist there? Yes, and this is ongoing. No contaminants have been found on the property to date.

The CST team closed their presentation with an invitation for us to ask questions or offer suggestions as the process moves forward. They will file for permits with the Planning Bd and ConComm in May and expect that public hearings may start in June.

Mosquito Control/Board of Health Jessica announced that the Board of Health will hold a public meeting with NE Mosquito Control District (NEMCD) representatives on April 20 at 6 pm (agenda and zoom link here:

<https://www.manchester.ma.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/04202023-3273>

- Our members who have questions or concerns should plan to attend. We are especially concerned about the availability of free on-demand aerial spraying for residential properties in town. Lynn felt this was overreach as the Town was quite clear when it voted to join the NEMCD that it wanted spraying only in instances of public health emergencies (ie when EEE or West Nile Virus mosquitos have been found).
- The danger of spraying is that it is toxic to bees and to many aquatic amphibians, fish and invertebrates. We wondered if there aren't any regulations about this spraying, but Steve Gang said there aren't.
- Carolyn will look for the minutes of the Town meeting when we signed on with NEMCD at the library.
- Jessica will ask Ellen Lufkin if we can be formally on their agenda to voice our concerns.

Current Business

- Sawmill Brook — Barbara Warren will try to get more specific information about the application process and benefits of designating Sawmill Brook as an “Outstanding Water Resource”. We would also need to consult the DPW and Select Board about any consequences of this designation, before proceeding further. Jessica will also reach out to Chuck Dam and Chris Bertoni to see if they can assist with understanding the process and benefits.
- Updates on HOBOS and fish monitoring — Lynn will place the water temperature monitoring devices in Sawmill Brook and Cat Brook again this spring. Lynn, Deb and Francie will also collect water for eDNA testing for presence of brook trout, rainbow smelt and alewife herring, although at present it is uncertain what lab can do the analysis.
- The DPW has created small dunes at Black Beach and has gone through the ConCom process to have them planted with appropriate dune vegetation to attempt to stabilize them.

Other Business

- Jessica announced that as Joan Nesbit and Carolyn Kelly will be leaving our committee, we need new official members. Michele Kulick and Chris Comb have volunteered, and Jessica will submit their names to the Select Board for appointment.
- Jessica announced the Community Center Cleanup will be May 13. We will clean up White Beach again, starting at 9 am; Jessica will gather the materials beforehand.

Salem Sound Coastwatch Update

- Barbara Warren had hoped that the Greenscapes brochures would be available at Town Meeting, but as they were not distributed there, we may arrange for them to be available for voters at the May town election on May 16.
- There will be a rain barrel building event on April 29 in Beverly. See www.salemsound.org for details.

The minutes of January 23, 2023 were approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:15 pm

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Francie Caudill