



Manchester-By-The-Sea Meeting Posting

Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by M.G.L.Ch.30A §18-25)

Board/Committee: Open Space & Recreation Committee
Day & Date: Monday, July 24, 2023
Time: 4:00 PM
Location: HYBRID (Zoom Link Below and Room 7 in Town Hall)
Signature: Sue Croft
Attendees: Steve Gang, Olga Hayes, Helen Bethell, Patti Mitchell, Terry Cowman, Jeff Bodmer-Turner, Grant Gerdes

MINUTES

- Steve Gang welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order. There were no announcements.
- Current Status of Parking at Newport Park – A letter to MHA was approved at 7/17 SB meeting and sent to Irene Frontiero on July 18. There has been no response yet.
- Western Woods Update – Jeff Bodmer-Turner brought attendees up to speed on the work that has been done since he has spearheaded efforts pertaining to the WW. First was a cleanup coordinated with MECT during which they removed 700-800 lbs. of trash. He also mentioned an abutter issue they have been dealing with having to do with a nearby pond and beavers. Jeff has been working with Patrice Murphy on getting detailed mapping and with Greg Federspiel on identifying Town-owned land that needs CR. There are issues surrounding easements for possible trailhead locations (of which there are 12) and Betsy Ware was to send the deeds to Town Counsel for review. Sue Croft will follow up with Betsy to see where this stands. Olga Hayes mentioned private roads also need consideration one of which being 11 Highland Ave. Steve said he would work with Patrice Murphy from MECT to see if she could take the lead on this. Jeff stressed the importance of having a comprehensive list of Town-owned property for conservation easement and restriction. Steve showed a map of Town- and MECT-owned properties that was a bit outdated. Jeff said he would work on getting the most up to date map of land that's owned in the WW.
- Watershed Overlay – Helen Bethell walked attendees through a document she created to highlight the importance of conserving the Gordon College Woods area of the LCD. That document can be found [HERE](#). Discussion as a result of Helen's presentation started with Helen asking Steve if it was possible to certify a vernal pool that is in a swamp. Steve's response was yes. Helen also noted that the development potential of the Gordon College Woods was limited, and Steve agreed that it would be difficult to develop there on any scale and make money. Helen stated that the most productive use of this land was to leave it alone. She also asked how to go about helping people realize the importance of conserving this land that is in our watershed. There was discussion at this point about getting the Select Board, Planning Board, Board of Health etc. along with the community on board

first then approach Gordon College. Steve informed everyone of a meeting he and some members of the WRP Task Force had several months ago with Mike Hammond (Gordon College President) to discuss conserving this land and that it was an unproductive conversation. It was agreed that that piece of the LCD should never be developed. Steve suggested that scheduling a hike through this area would help people appreciate the land and the wildlife. It was discussed that the hike should follow a presentation to be given to the Boards and Helen volunteered to adapt her document into a presentation of this kind. Jeff suggested when presenting to the SB to demonstrate minimal need of Town financial assistance. Helen thought this land would be best used by Gordon to educate their students in environmental and wildlife sciences and the like. Steve stated that the Town should adjust their expectations with regards to the potential income that could be produced through the LCD beyond the CST campus. Olga emphasized that this committee needs to continue strategizing on the Gordon Woods approach to the Town boards and community. Steve suggested that he and Olga sit down with Greg as a first step. Jeff pointed out that a clear strategic plan for ALL the watershed is key and perhaps the focus should not be on individual parts when trying to work with the Town as a whole. Jeff also noted that CST plans to put a CR on all land that they are not using for their campus. Jeff asked Steve who was taking over the reins for the now disbanded Water Task Force and Steve informed him that it would be the Sustainability Committee with new additional members to help handle this new effort.

- Housekeeping Items – Sue Croft mentioned that there are some missing minutes (specifically 2/24/2020 and 12/6/2021) and if folks who were on the committee during those timeframes could check to see if they happen to have them it would be appreciated. Also, a few members need to be reappointed and re-sworn. Sue informed those people of the process to make that happen.
- Review and Approve Minutes from 6/21, 5/22, 4/24 and 3/20 Meetings – motions were made and seconded for each month's minutes to be approved and all were approved unanimously.
- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Mon Aug 21 from 4:00-5:30 PM. Sue Croft will check in with the committee members the week before that date to make sure a quorum will be available.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.