



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

CONSERVATION COMMISSION • TOWN HALL
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Open Space and Recreation Committee

August 3, 2016

Town Hall, Room 7 ♦ 6:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Mike Chapman, Francie Caudill, Connie Sullivan

Members Absent: Steve Jaworski, Helen Bethell

Others Present: Mary Reilly

Mike Chapman, Chair, opened the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

The approval of minutes was deferred to the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Update on Dexter Pond and Powder House Hill Improvements

Mike Chapman noted that Steve Jaworski was looking into improvements at Dexter Pond. Mary Reilly responded that she had not heard anything from Steve so didn't know the status. She said that she knew that no wetlands permit application had been submitted for the footbridge work at Dexter Pond.

Regarding Powder House Hill Improvements, Mike reminded us that at the last meeting, we talked about installing trail markers. Mike said that he had the action item of speaking with Bill Vachon about it, but hasn't been able to get to this yet. Francie noted that she had spoken with Bill who said he would be happy to help Steve Jaworski with these projects.

Mary also mentioned that there were a couple of trees at Dexter Pond that were dangerous and needed to be taken down and suggested that we have Bill Vachon mark them (for removal). We would also have to get a letter permit from the Conservation Commission.

Seven Year Work Plans

Mike noted that we (the Open Space and Rec Committee) had discussed partnering with the Winthrop Field Committee to help with the brush clearing along the stone wall. He said that he was meeting with the committee soon and would make sure it was OK with them. Mike would then announce a work day in the Cricket and note the participation of the OSRC.

Francie noted that we didn't have anyone assigned to goals and action items that had been assigned to Sara Levensohn or Frank Marangell. Mary said that Connie Sullivan would be taking Frank Marangell's items since she is now the rep from the Planning Board. She also said she had spoken to the director of Parks and Recreation and that she said that they would be appointing someone soon.

Mike then asked Connie Sullivan what help she needed to get started. Connie said she had spent some time with Mary and she feels comfortable with her responsibilities.

Mary also noted that there had been some discussion about the overgrown and dead/dying plants at the new entrance of Cedar Swamp. She said that it was unclear who was supposed to be responsible for maintenance of the plants both in the short and long term. Francie said that the plants needed attention very

soon. Francie also said that someone had reported seeing trash in the area and had suggested installing a trash can although Francie didn't recommend this but thought that signage could help. Mary said that the town (DPW) wasn't going to water because of the water ban due to the drought. Friends of Trees did some watering last year after the trees/bushes were planted.

Connie asked about Surf Park and asked who was responsible for maintenance. She said that a neighbor told her that they had raised money to care for the property but that it didn't look like anything had been done recently. Mary said she thought that the property was under the purview of Parks and Recreation. Mike suggested that someone find out what the agreement was regarding maintenance of the park and that we would discuss this at the next meeting. Mary said she would follow up with Cheryl Marshall.

Mike then asked if there were any updates on the possible acquisition of the Gourdeau property. Mary reported that she met with Peter Gourdeau and Chris LaPointe (from Essex County Greenbelt) about the property. She noted that ECGA is interested in partnering with the town in acquiring the property. Mary said that Peter Gourdeau is interested in selling the property but wants a fair market price for it. Chris explained some of the tax benefits of selling it below market to a conservation group. Peter said that he would have to go back and review some of the survey information that was done when he purchased it 20-plus years ago. Mary said she is going to keep in touch with Peter and Chris to make sure this gets moved along.

The committee decided that the next meeting will be held on September 14th.

Mike Chapman closed the meeting.