



Manchester-by-the-Sea Meeting Minutes

Board/Committee: Open Space & Recreation Committee
Day & Date: Monday, February 24, 2025
Time: 4:00 PM
Location: Room 7 and Zoom
Signature: Sue Croft
Attendees: Olga Hayes, Patti Mitchell, Terry Cowman, Morgan Evans, Nick de Sherbinin, Sue Croft

MINUTES

- Welcome/Announcements – Olga Hayes called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. There were no announcements.
- Western Woods – Olga reached out to Jeff Bodmer-Turner to see if he had any updates, and he said he had none.
- Gordon/Chebacco Woods – No updates.
- Newport Park – Olga recapped where we currently stand with the new parking spaces at Newport Park and pointed out that the new spaces would likely be located at the cul de sac. There was discussion about whether or not either of those spaces would be handicapped. Terry Cowman noted that the Bike and Ped Committee was in the process of adapting the trail going from that entrance of Powder House Hill to Lower Pine St to be ADA accessible and it would be helpful to have a handicap space there or even on the Pine St side (handicapped or otherwise). Olga noted that both committees should coordinate throughout this process of creating new parking spaces and adapting the trail.
- New Trailhead Signage – Nick de Sherbinin gave the committee an update stating that he worked with Marlene Dolan of the Wayfinding team to coordinate efforts regarding the new trailhead signage. Nick showed the committee both the proposed locations for the signs as well as proposed Wayfinding-designed signs. The group proposed the following locations as top priority:
 1. Pleasant St entrance
 2. Two locations on Pine St (not the one at Newport Park)
 3. Entrance at the Scout Building

The secondary locations are:

1. Friend St entrance
2. Elm St entrance

Nick thought that a simpler sign would be just as effective as the branded one proposed by the Wayfinding team. His concerns were that it was potentially too big, too busy and too expensive. Olga suggested that Nick speak with someone at MECT since they are planning to change their signage to be more consistent and perhaps the Town can benefit from their insight. Nick agreed to reach out to MECT. There was discussion around the wording of signage used at Independence Park in Beverly. The majority of the group thought it best to keep the trailhead signage as simple as possible. Nick suggested that the committee plan to decide on the sign design at the next meeting and the group agreed.

- Other Opportunities for Land Conservation – No new conservation opportunities were suggested at this time. Olga suggested that Sue Croft generate a working list of conservation properties in town using the OSR Plan that the committee could use to prioritize areas to hike and document any needs for each area.
- The meeting minutes of the 1/13 meeting were unanimously approved.
- Next meeting will be scheduled for Monday 3/24 at 4:00 PM.
- The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM.