

**MANCHESTER PARKS FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Monday October 5, 2009**

**Present: Sharon Hughes, Betty Smith, Ellen Rugemer, Ellen Frey, Barbara Trump, Marcia Bogash, Donna Davis, Elsie McCleary**

**Volunteer: Tom Smith**  
**Town of Manchester: Doug Myers**  
**Guest: George Huppman**

**Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Sharon Hughes.**

**Minutes were approved as corrected. Motion by Betty Smith, second by Marcia Bogash**

**Treasurer's Report Accepted as presented. Motion by Marcia Bogash, second by Ellen Frey.**

**P.R. Article in paper with pictures of Sept. Bocce Ball Tournament was circulated as well as magazine with article about the site archaeology investigation.**

**Memory Grove Event: there were approximately 65 people in attendance. 11 trees were planted. Those in attendance appreciated the ceremony and minute of silence.**

**Spring Fest: Next meeting will be on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Committee members are: Sharon Hughes, Barbara Trump, Elsie McCleary and Ellen Frey. There will be a report at the November Meeting.**

**Naturalist: No report**

**Facilities: Tom Smith reported that the Town was spraying weed killer all over the place. Also they had moved and damaged a picnic table. He had spent much time the last week getting Memory Grove ready for the event and the place did look beautiful.**

**October 10<sup>th</sup> Clean-Up Day.**

**Ellen Rugemer has some scouts coming to help. Suggestions made that those helping water proof tables be provided with vinyl gloves. Elsie McCleary and Ellen Frey stated that they would supply the gloves. The picnic tables were made with untreated lumber so it needs to be done. Tom Smith will purchase the water proof product. Tom stated that help was also needed mulching the trails.**

**Tom reported that the light at the spot-a-pot would not go on so Bill Skinner disconnected it. Tom will pick up and install a new socket.**

**Old Business:** Ebb Valley has been coming for Field Trips and crossing the Thomas Tree Farm. This seems to be working well and Mr. Thomas has offered to have the students come to his place to learn about trees.

No report on the Greenway.

**Eagle Scout projects:** Lorne Haines and Ellen Rugemer picked the places that he will be putting his 3, five-foot long benches. She suggested to him that he contact Town about digging the holes due to the rocky soil. Kevin Utz is still working on approval for his project.

Tom Smith suggested that a future project would be cleaning up some of the scrubby stuff at Memory Grove.

**Future Concern:** There are concerns as to planting more trees in the future as we are running out of open field space. Tom suggested that we continue up the hill from where we are now. He felt it would also benefit the neighbors who would no longer have to view the tall grass. Betty offered to meet with Steve Miller to discuss guidelines for use of that field.

**Chestnut Planting:** Bill Skinner will be measuring the trees during October.

Guest George Huppman expressed concern about flooding in Park following heavy rains. He believes if the grass was not so short that it might not be as bad. Betty Smith stated that a lot of erosion is from the site of Manchester Elementary. Another concern of runoff is the storage facility behind the Manchester Supply Building because of the large area of blacktop.

**Trail Maps:** Doug Myers met with Betty Smith about Trail Maps. He had a surveying crew come out who used a GPS to get a starting point. He plans to get a large map to have at Nature Center, as well as small handout maps. He will also have it put on CD. It will probably take most of the Fall to complete.

**Pavilion by Pond:** Sharon Hughes read a report from the meeting with Steve Miller, Sharon and Elsie about placement of Pavilion. She felt the place chosen was of less risk to children attending pond events.

George Huppman expressed his concerns as to the chosen place due to it being at a low point and was a flood plain.

Betty Smith expressed concerns that 2 Board members had made this decision.

Following much heated discussion, Elsie McCleary made a motion to place the Pavilion on the other side of the fence and to the left of the archway with the Memory Grove sign. Marcia Bogash seconded the motion.

**During discussion Sharon again voiced concerns about children crossing near cars. Some ideas to aid in this were speed bumps, dedicated walkway, children crossing signs or using saw-horses to block crossover during events.**

**After more heated discussion the motion was passed with a unanimous vote.**

**Doug Myers suggested Tom Smith and he meet to discuss the mowing concerns. Donna Davis will also serve on this committee.**

**Betty Smith questioned if the Board had received a letter from the Town of proposed budget cuts. The Foundation had not.**

**George Huppman brought up composter toilets. Ellen Rugemer explained the points of concern of keeping them running and clean.**

**Changing the telephone system was tabled until the next meeting.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. Motion by Ellen Rugemer and seconded by Elsie McCleary.**

**Submitted by Marcia Bogash, Sec.**