

TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013 at 7:00 PM
OOB TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL

Meeting Called to Order at 7:15 pm

Member Roll Call: John Bird - Chair, Kimbark Smith, Karen Brozek, and Mark Koenigs
Excused absence: Patricia Holland

Secretary Note: Public is welcome to attend and participate in the Conservation Commission meetings at the pleasure of the Chair. People interested in volunteering to plan, fund raise, and construct recreational trails in OOB are encouraged to contact the Chair John Bird or Mark Koenigs. New members are needed and would be welcomed.

ITEM 1. Minutes

Ms. Brozek moved to accept the April 9, 2013 meeting minutes and Mr. Smith seconded. Meeting minutes were approved; 4-0 vote.

ITEM 2. Subcommittee updates

A. Veterans Memorial Park

Chair Bird provided a summary update for the Sub-committee, covering the Illumination Night fundraiser, and a planned press interview covering the park and park programs. Illumination Night candle bags are available at Town Hall, McDonald's Garage and Libby Memorial Library for a donation.

B. Eastern Trail Connection

Mr. Koenigs reported on the subcommittee meeting held on 4/17/13 at 7 pm at the DPW office. Conservation Commission will organize and hold a spring clean-up of the School Street Extension portion of the OOB to ET Connector Trail on Saturday 5/18/13 from 9 am to noon. Mr. Koenigs will coordinate advertising on the access channel for volunteers and contact OOB High School for student volunteers. Student volunteers can earn community service hours to fulfill an education requirement. Next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 5/29/13 with the place to be determined. It was suggested that bicycle lane markings be put on W Grand Ave. after the final coat of asphalt is laid.

C. Wetlands Survey

Chair Bird presented an update with handouts of the survey work done to date. We discussed the status of the wetlands survey and the level of detail the consultant is providing. We all were pleased with the level of detail. We discussed the draft report schedule submittal and we are looking forward to receiving a draft after our next meeting in June. The final report may not be complete until September or October of this year.

D. MCHT Conference

Chair Bird provided information he received while attending the MCHT conference. Conservation easements were covered by one speaker. The State database seems to be useless as no useable data comes out of it in a report format directly. The database is not searchable. There was a presentation on deer wintering bond which was approved by State voters. There is funding for deer wintering area management, but the State agency in charge is still working to set up a grant program to distribute the raised bond funds. There was a presentation on rising sea level and land conservations – climate change was covered. Sea level rise is a real problem for OOB. The LIDAR mapping done by the State of Maine is accurate, but has technical issues since it does not shoot or record surface elevations through bodies of water and has a variance of from 1” to 4”, which can be a problem in our area, especially in the marshes.

ITEM 3. Easements

We covered easements under Chair’s report on the conference and there are no changes to the Town’s conservation easement status.

Chair Bird to continue to investigate easement registry. He has previously asked the State planning office to provide him the legal requirement and a report of everything in OOB.

ITEM 4. Goosefare Pollution Update

Chair Bird gave an update of the 4/25/13 a meeting held with Maine Healthy Beaches (MHB) at Town Hall with Town Manager/ DPW Director/WWTF Superintendent/Town Planner/Code Enforcement Officer. The Town is now working on the issue and has an action plan to follow. The Town will start testing soon. No specific time frame or dates. Source identification by elimination will be by dye testing individual sewer service connections (resident’s toilets). The individual test duration was not given or known. Pollution signage will likely be required during the summer to warn beach users of the water conditions. Chris White, WWTF superintendent is in charge of monitoring and testing. Town will map the new test sites and test results. Chair Bird stated that MHB is helping us.

ITEM 5. Volunteers – Rev 3 and Beach Monitoring

Ms. Brozek reviewed opportunities for the Conservation Commission to fund raise through volunteering for the Rev3 event this summer on the weekend of August 23-25. Rev3 needs volunteers and they donate \$15 per person per charity organization that volunteers as a group to fill a needed volunteer position. Trish Driscoll is helping to coordinate with the Rev3 organization and she has recommended that the OOB Conservation Commission provide volunteers for a Running Aid Station on the Eastern Trail at Mile 5 & 7 of the half triathlon race. We would need to supply 20 volunteers total and have 10 to 15 people at all times to man the aid station during the event. Rev3 is a good opportunity to raise funds for Conservation Commission. Mr. Smith made a motion to submit our name as a Rev3 volunteer group, Ms. Brozek seconded and the vote was unanimous; 4-0.

Chair Bird mentioned that Beach Monitoring volunteers were needed to profile the sand on the beach for 2 to 3 survey lines to document and record elevation changes. Next year, the beach monitoring program sponsor will be asking the Town of OOB to support the beach monitoring with a suggested donation fee.

ITEM 6. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Chair Bird gave an update on the infestation of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. We have confirmed that the infestation is in Southern OOB. The Conservation Commission has made posters, and posted them in Town Hall and at the Post Offices for public's information. The Adelgid do have vulnerability; they need their host tree to survive. So if you have a valued ornamental tree you can trim off the branches that are infested, or use a strong stream of water to wash them off the tree branches, ie. separate them from the trees.

ITEM 7. Deer Wintering Area

A future project is possible for the Portland Avenue property. The State of Maine has designated part of the property as a deer wintering habitat. As mentioned earlier during the meeting there may be future funding for projects that promote or enhance a deer wintering habitat areas. Funding for a forester to survey various town properties has been requested in the Conservation Commission budget for 2014 to provide an assessment of the timber and habitats.

ITEM 8. Comprehensive Plan Discussion

Chair Bird to provide handouts for the Comprehensive Plan's Goal, Policies and Strategies to be reviewed by the Commission members and provide comments back to Mr. Bird.

ITEM 9. FEMA Update

Chair Bird presented an update on the status of the FEMA maps. The Town's FEMA Consultant (Ransom Consulting, Inc., Mr. Gerber), is working with Southern Maine communities to respond to FEMA's proposed flood insurance maps. Currently, FEMA is not accepting of comments. The FEMA work maps are located down stairs in the Town Hall in the Planning Department Office.

ITEM 10. Education & Signage

Mr. Smith provided his finding on the cost to procure a kiosk. He recommends that we have a kiosk design drawn to our specifications for our sites. We discussed and confirmed that the Conservation Commission has previously planned and budgeted to install one kiosk at each of the following locations: 1) Blueberry Plains, 2) OOB- ET Connector Trail (trail head) and 3) Portland Ave. Property. Mr. Koenigs agreed to draw a design sketch for the OOB kiosk similar to the ET kiosks; reverse engineer the plan. Mr. Koenigs and Mr. Smith will create a bill of materials needed to construct and install two (2) kiosks and get material pricing. We will then volunteer our time along with anyone else who has interest/skills to construct and

install one kiosk at the Blueberry Plains entrance and one kiosk at the trail head of the OOB to ET Connector Trail at the end of Pond View Road.

Chair Bird will get proposed activity books printed with permissions.

ITEM 11. Possible NEMO Speaker

Chair Bird gave an update on his findings on coordinating the NEMO speaker for local presentation. The speaker is not “free” (\$200). He will continue to coordinate with the Town Council and Town Planner to arrange for a presentation for public education and information on best management practices (BMP) and new technologies regarding stormwater drainage.

ITEM 12. “Check-in” and Discussion of plans for upcoming year

Stay tuned for next Town Council workshop to follow-up on budget request for FY ‘14.

ITEM 13. Other Business

There will be a Maine Beaches Conference in July at SMCC. Chair Bird will send out link to members to sign-up if anyone is interested.

Chair Bird asked if anyone on the Commission would be interested in setting up a Conservation Commission facebook page. Mr. Smith will look into it and may be able to solicit help from a family member who is a facebook user.

No other business.

Next monthly meeting - June 10, 2013 tentative – time and place to be determined

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Mark Koenigs

Mark Koenigs, Secretary
(Approved on 6/10/13)