

OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Monday, May 11, 2015, 7:00 PM

OOB Town Hall, Council Chambers

Minutes

A more detailed record of the meeting can be found on the DVD recording of the televised meeting maintained by the Town Clerk's Office or at:

http://www.townhallstreams.com/locations/old-orchard-beach-me/events/25689/oob_council_chambers

Meeting Called to Order at 7:01 PM

Present: John Bird - Chair, Kimbark Smith, Peter Hornby, Richard Greenlee, Cynthia Nye and Mark Koenigs

1. Minutes - Minutes tabled until next meeting.

2. Subcommittee updates

A. Veterans Memorial Park - John Bird spoke for the Veterans Memorial Park sub-committee and gave an Update that the care of the grass is being taken care of and they will make a decision. A brochure of Biddeford's Yard Smart program at MacArthur Library was presented.

Luminary Night for those who have passed on and served the country is coming up on Memorial Day. Luminary bags may be obtained at various places in town.

Peter Hornby questioned whether the pesticide to be used on the grass would contaminate and possibly make the Town liable if animal or human contamination should occur.

B. Eastern Trail Connection Design and Progress - John Bird gave an update but the subject was mostly postponed until Mark

Koenigs came in later. See 4. Below.

C. Milliken Mill Woods Project - Kimbark Smith reported that the trail has been re-marked.

Cynthia Nye, who is representing RSU 23, is coordinating involvement of student participation in this project. The 4th grade class at Loranger Middle School under the leadership of their teacher, William Corcoran is developing signage, "QR coding", tables, benches and proposed bridge design. Karen Brozek and Charlie Milliken are spending a great deal of time assisting the students in developing the history of the woods and the OOB area.

4. MCHT Land Conference - attended by John Bird, Eileen Payette, Peter Hornby and Richard Greenlee. Question on GPS mapping. Cynthia to look into it.

Mark Koenigs came in and stated that revised trail drawings were submitted by him to DPW. Two Kiosks to be placed on May 30th. Materials for three additional Kiosks were requested by Mark Koenigs to be purchased from the FY2016 budget and to be picked up.

Getting the signs ("kiosks") up was discussed at the Town Employees' Meeting.

School St. Ext. section still needs work.

Back to discussion of the MCHT Land Conference

Peter Hornby attended two workshops at the conference: Conservation Easements and Creating a Data-based Documentation for Conservation Easements. He presented a discussion on what he learned at the workshops. The AG's office is the ultimate "enforcer" for them. Digital documentation may not be reliable. Film is more so. Documentation should be done in one day if possible. He has a background in park administration.

Richard Greenlee attended workshops on public land and conservation policy updates and how to get our message "out the door". Legislators on both "sides of the aisle" in the legislature seem very positive towards land trusts and setting aside open space land for the future. Majority leader attended. Websites and Facebook seem good vehicles to get messages out. He sat in on a discussion on the historical perspective of land trusts. Contact in Cape Elizabeth might be good in the future. Will provide a future report.

Maine Beaches Conference is coming up in July and might be useful for some to attend.

Saco Conservation Commission Saco Bay overview meeting is evidently off for now.

MEACC meeting was attended by John Bird, Richard Greenlee and Mark Greenlee.

There was a presentation by Doug Beck, new Maine Outdoor Recreation Supervisor for Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands who talked about municipal funding from the federal transportation agency. He was rather encouraging. There is money specifically set aside for transportation alternatives, mainly to do with trails. The feds give Maine about \$1.4 million and the state DOT keeps about \$300,000 and they don't seem to do anything with it. He's trying to streamline the application from a paper application of 74 pages to a 12 page format on-line in June with applications due in the fall. It is 80/20 % reimbursement. ~5% of the \$1 million is reserved for Safety & Environmental projects specifically (~\$5000 ea.); ~ \$500,000 total for local projects. There are currently about 40 applications / year of which maybe 30 get funded. Not a bad ratio. It might be good to work on later this year.

5. Spring Cleanup - Eileen Payette had reported that we are waiting on disposition of the United Way application. Tabled for now.

Coastal Grants - June 24th is a deadline on a Water Quality grant. Tabled.

Paper towel dispenser stickers available – Cynthia will apply for some free for the schools. Motion to purchase 200 stickers for \$29.00 by Kimbark Smith and second by Richard Greenlee, voted yes with no votes no. Chamber of Commerce for distribution?

6. Plovers – The Wells Reserve and Rachel Carson Refuge printed up a children’s coloring / fact book on them and they are available free. DPW has a box of them. Cynthia will look at them for the schools.

The Town Clerk, Kim McLaughlin further informed the Commission that a nest has been observed on East Grand. Beach cleanup can't be performed in the area of the nest by federal agreement. The Town is required by law to protect the nests April to possibly August.

8. Purchase of Tools - Kimbark Smith and John Bird - the tools approved (power trimmer, chain saw, etc.) are going to be purchased this week.

9. Budget hearing – John Bird - It went ok, professional services got chopped a little bit, but The Town Manager and Town Council who were there seem definitely interested in getting the Goosefare pollution taken care of, so quite probably we will have the ability to do “shoulder season” monitoring and smoke testing this season.

Saco – OOB long-term “319” Goosefare study group is working to try to find out how to bring the Goosefare back up to its proper classification. It currently has a least 4 problems: Bacteriological, toxic metals, excessive nutrients and habitat loss. They will be having a public meeting June 4 in Saco.

Main budget decision - June 6th, John Bird to attend as Chair.

10. Other business – Bikeway people coming Wednesday to meet with John and the recreation department and anyone else who might be interested on how we can make OOB more user-friendly towards bicycles.

11. Good & Welfare – nothing else.

8:27 PM - Motion to adjourn by Richard Greenlee, second by Kimbark Smith. Motion passes with no votes against.