

## OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, January 10, 2022 7:00 PM

Town Hall

Members present: Kimbark Smith - Chair, Irv Paradis, Dawn Marie Dunbar, Mark Koenigs, Cynthia Nye

Guest: Warren Kenniston from Ocean Park Conservation Commission to learn about the HWA predator beetle

### 1. General Updates

Loranger Memorial School projects: HWA biological control beetles

- HWA project: Students are requesting Con Com help to purchase beetles that eat HWA from Tree savers.com in PA. Jayme at Tree Savers wrote: "Each full colony costs \$250. Shipping is \$50 for up to 3 containers. We are also running a promotion right now and anyone who places a 50% deposit by the end of January is entitled to a half colony for free. So if you ordered 2 colonies now, you'd get 3 containers. 2 containers of 100+ and 1 container of 50+ (We always count an extra 1-3 beetles). The total would be \$550." Colleen Teerling of Maine Forest Service has a permit and will help us deploy the beetles in the woods behind Jameson School. [www.treesaverspa.com](http://www.treesaverspa.com)
- Con Com voted to spend \$550 of our budget to support the student project. Kim will contact Joe Cooper at DPW because our budget is under DPW.
- Dawn noted a secondary gain: This is an opportunity for students to engage in civic activity, to engage with local government to effect positive change in the community.
- Cynthia will send Warren Kenniston details about purchasing beetles.

Other Loranger updates

- BEACHES CONFERENCE June 10, 2022
- Grade 3 will do their community project in April-May.
- Grade 5 will do the pollinator garden project with Community Friendly Connections (CFC) in the spring.
- American chestnut trees in Milliken Mills Woods: Cynthia is in contact with [Tom Klak PhD at UNE](#), who is raising chestnut saplings and willing to give us a few to grow. Cynthia is awaiting information on conditions needed for successful planting. Students will collect bracts in spring to register the largest tree in MMW with the American Chestnut Foundation. The tree is in the buffer area of a lot on Dolphin Ave that abuts the yellow trail at the top of the animal shelter (south) side of Portland Ave.

### 2. Land Donation and Surrounding Properties

Gift from David R. Ahearn of lot 101-2-8, property on both sides of Eastern Trail across Milliken Mills Road toward the Scarborough line.

- Con Com expressed appreciation of this gift.
- Con Com needs to price expansion of a parking strip that was put in by DPW in front of the gate at Milliken Woods North. The lot eventually should have max 10 spaces.

3. Voting for Officers - 5-0 unanimous vote for officers:

- Kimbark Smith, chair
- Barry Jackman, vice-chair

4. Good and Welfare

- Mark looked at kiosks. Mark and Kimbark will meet with Brooks Bowen at Loranger Memorial School on Thursday, January 13.
- Resident of Porter Ave sent us an email about Japanese knotweed in Rachel Carson land on our side of Goosefare Brook. We don't have any authority to work on Rachel Carson land.

Note for next meeting:

- Maine Public reported today that the Southern Pine Beetle has been found in Maine. SPB especially affects pine barrens, pitch pine, and red pine. We can check pitch pines in Blueberry Plains for popcorn-sized balls of resin extruded by SPB.
- People have been using the new trails at Blueberry Plains: tracks of snowmobiles, snowshoes, walkers

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Minutes recorded by Cynthia Nye

Kimbark G. Smith, Chair OOB Conservation Commission