

# TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes, November 10, 2009

The Commission concentrated discussion on town activities related to sand dunes.

Sue Schaller of Bar Mills Ecological was present in the audience and agreed to discuss some of her history with dune projects in town.

In 2007, restoration of dune grass in the area of the Grand Victorian was required by DEP in response to unpermitted actions taken by the town.

DEP required ("requested?") that some accesses be narrowed and new boardwalks that had been constructed be reworked to come into compliance with the state's Sand Dune Rules. 32-35 boardwalk accesses west of The Pier that were replaced will need to come into compliance -- either by elevating them or perhaps by increasing space between the boards. Ms. Schaller is working from photo documentation of the boardwalks.

Andrea Berlin requested that the Conservation Commission be notified of any meetings with DEP, so that we can be represented.

The Commission discussed that there has been a lack of communication between the CC and DPW, and improving that would be extremely beneficial.

Sue Schaller suggested that for boardwalk elevation, the area near Ocean, since it is relatively short, might be a good place to start as a test.

The Town Council budget is due in January, and we need to have information on what is going to be required by DEP so it can be budgeted.