

OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday March 13, 2023 7:00 PM

Town Hall

Present: Kimbark Smith, Irv Paradis, Charlie Paradis, Barry Jackman, Cynthia Nye

1. General Updates

HWA: \$1500 toward beetles and more toward pesticides.

- Focus on Jameson Woods, Guild Park, Blueberry Plains Extension, Milliken Mills
- Kimbark has contacted the Bureau of Pest Management about getting certified to apply pesticides against HWA. Bath and Wiscasset have done this. Someone has to get a Master's certificate; others can get basic certification.
- Milliken Mills South (animal shelter side) has a moderate infestation. The North side has a light infestation.
- Kimbark, Irv, and Charlie will walk Milliken Mills North to see where we can take the tree spraying company to get an estimate.
- Cynthia will check the area behind the solar farm, accessing from Blueberry Plains.

West Grand Avenue trees: Irv shared points from his letter and reply from the Town Manager regarding 15 trees cut down on West Grand Avenue. There is nothing to be done at this point.

Ideas for climate change response program grants:

- Snow fencing to protect dunes: Kimbark and Mark estimated it will cost about \$35,000 for materials. We could apply for a grant to cover that project. Recent flooding fertilized the dunes.
- Enhancing the capacity of the marshes to absorb flooding, perhaps by cutting through dunes to allow more water to reach the marshes. The Goosefare and marshes are getting more water now than before the December 23rd 2022 storm.

2. Good and Welfare

- Missy Mans (piping plover monitor) emailed the Town Manager and others about motorized bikes, loose dogs, and drones on the beach, which will threaten piping plovers. Discussion continues about how to remedy these issues.
- ConCom members have seen a lot of dog poop in the dunes.
- Loranger School 5th graders, as part of their fall pollinator study, wrote to Rep Lori Gramlich to propose a Maine state butterfly. Students will go to Augusta in April when Lori proposes LD 239, a bill to make the Pink-edged Sulphur the state butterfly.

Minutes by Cynthia Nye

Kimbark G. Smith, Chair OOB Conservation Commission

