

OOB Conservation Commission Minutes April 10, 2023

Present: Kimbark Smith, Dawn-Marie Dunbar, Irv Paradis, Charlie Backus, Cynthia Nye

1. Piping plover memorial project - update coming soon
2. Earth Day beach clean up Saturday April 22 at 9:45 with Maine Conservation Alliance
3. Piping plovers - Missy Mans reported 14 birds as of today. Cynthia emailed Irv's reports to Missy, who will read them and connect with Irv.
4. HWA - budget review is April 20, 2023
 - Predator beetles: Treesavers sent an invoice that Dawn-Marie submitted to Lisa Wilson for \$3000.00 for 300 beetles including shipping. Beetles will be delivered in late May/June. We're evaluating sites for release. Guild Park, Milliken Mills behind the animal shelter, and Jameson Woods have infestation levels suitable for beetles.
 - Spraying: One type of spray can be applied in the fall when beetles are adults and can fly, but HWA stays on the tree and gets poisoned.
 - Kb and Irv are waiting for the town's support to get certified to spray. We have the money to get the training, but the town needs to accept Irv and Kb as unpaid employees for coverage. Irv will become a master sprayer (4 tests, #3 in Augusta, 4th is verbal) and can supervise Kb who will get the less intensive certification.
 - OPA will have a meeting on April 18, 2023 on Zoom. They haven't responded to Irv about buying some beetles for Guild Park.
 - Kb talked to Chris White; he's seen the hemlocks dying.
5. Pollinator Project
 - State Butterfly Bill LD 239 proposed by 5th graders passed the Committee hearing!
 - Kb will check about installing plexiglass in the kiosks for Blueberry Plains so art from the pollinator art contest can be displayed there.
6. Saco Bay Boy Scouts are looking for trail projects for community service. Cynthia will follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minute submitted by Cynthia Nye

Kimbark Smith, Chair