

OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday June 12, 2023 7:00 PM

Town Hall

Attending: Dawn-Marie Dunbar, Irv Paradis, Barry Jackman, Kimbark Smith, Cynthia Nye

Guest: Missy Mans, OOB piping plover monitor

1. Plover Update Missy Mans

- Missy reviewed her sign presentation from last year. Some signs have been installed. Some old signs have been removed. More follow up is needed. Missy is trying. There should be 5 signs plus the street name on each post.
- Missy shared informational cards that she gives to people on the beach.
- Currently 10 active nests. One was lost to predators (crow), another to high tides. We lose a lot of chicks each year.
- Audubon relies on town personnel and volunteers to keep them informed of nests. Audubon comes 2-3 times per week. Missy sends them her report every morning.
- Missy has recruited 5 volunteers, the same people for the past 2-3 years.
- Regular dog walkers are pretty good, but some people won't follow the regulations.
- Scarborough has 2 nests in their restricted area. They had 1 last year. We had 7 chicks.
- Missy has identified 65 eggs; 20 have been lost. Twelve chicks have hatched; four have been lost. Chicks on other beaches are ready to fly in 25 days; here they need up to 45 days. Ours have to work harder for their food, running back to their nest every time a dog or walker goes by.
- What could help? Information distributed with dog licenses; plover season can run March - September. Restrict e-bikes. Drones make birds crazy, but there's no ordinance regarding them. Kites are also a problem, also parasails.
- Audubon has regulations, an agreement Public Works agrees to, recently renewed in March, but there's not enough personnel to enforce regulations.
- Missy walks in front of the rake to scout for scrapes.
- Irv has a copy of the agreement Scarborough signed.
- Dogs go into the dunes and leave poop, lots of it.
- Plovers don't nest in the grass, maybe along the very edge, but usually in open space.
- All we can do is notify the police.

2. General Updates

- Irv will speak at our next meeting about his piping plover research.
- Tide gate grant application, including march hydrology investigation, was submitted.
- Dune fencing: We can apply for one grant per year. Next year, snow fencing. Snow fencing may be problematic for piping plovers. Sample: http://www.discountfence.com/snowfence/wooden_sand_snow_fence.htm
- HWA predator beetles: 300 released near Guild Park, 100 in Jameson, 600 in Milliken

Minutes submitted by Cynthia Nye

Kimbark G. Smith, Chair OOB Conservation Commission