

OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday December 11, 2023 7:00 PM

Town Hall

Attending: Kimbark Smith, Irv Paradis, Barry Jackman, Cynthia Nye, Mary Pat Donellon

1. General Updates

Loranger projects - ash inventory is finished for now; hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA) will start in February. In the spring we will do a stream water quality project with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) and Audubon. Irv noted that Maine Healthy Beaches' summer water testing showed some bacterial contamination.

Pesticide application training for Irv - on hold until he hears back from Diane (Town Manager) and Chris White about insurance coverage - we may all be covered as committee members.

Milliken Mills Trails north **parking lot** - in progress

Fencing for dunes - 'frontal dune' is from the sea side to the back of the dune. Irv wrote to Mary Beth Richardson of DEP - she gave them Chapter 305 - openings in the fence must be 4 inches wide or double the width of the picket board, which snow fence is not. Posts max 4 x 4 inches. If the bottom of the fence is raised up 4" or more, these restrictions don't apply. Irv will write an email thanking her and confirming the information.

Building up dunes with Christmas trees - Peter Slovinsky of Maine Geological Survey came up with a strategy that South Portland is trying, of partially burying Christmas trees to build up the dunes on Willard Beach. Irv suggests trying it at the end of Porter Ave. Irv will submit the application; Con Com will pay the application fee of \$307.00.

Food waste - Mary Pat Donellon - Ocean Park Association (OPA) pays for the Garbage to Garden (G2G) station on Temple Ave, which is well used. OOB could potentially have more stations, or individual households could sign up. Diana is concerned that people will leave all kinds of non-acceptable things, which G2G then won't collect. This happens at the OP station but has ebbed since signage was added. Putting a station near the police station would help deter illegal dumping, as might a security camera.

Mary Pat will continue to explore what other towns are doing. She is meeting with OOB school food services staff on Wednesday 12/13. The University of Maine has resources for building a composting station near the school for educational purposes. Cynthia is willing to support the project at Loranger School.

2. Good and Welfare

The OOB annual report will reflect that we accomplished a lot in 2023.

Next meeting January 8, 2024.

Minutes submitted by Cynthia Nye.

Kimbark G. Smith, Chair OOB Conservation Commission