

OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday January 8, 2024 7:00 PM

Town Hall

Attendees: Kimbark Smith, Larry Meade, Mark Koenigs, Irv Paradis, Mary Pat Donnellon, Charlie Backus

1. Appointment of Memorial Park Subcommittee Members

Larry Meade presented a slate of candidates to be approved as members of the Memorial Park Subcommittee. We approved them unanimously: Mike Dickerson, Tina Kelley, Dan Pascucci, George Kerr, Billy Marshall, Holly Korda, Larry Mead for one year terms.

2. Election of Officers

The committee voted on and approved a slate of officers for 2024. Kimbark Smith (Chair), Mary Pat Donnellon (Vice Chair), Cynthia Nye (Secretary)

3. Project Updates by Members

Irv Paradis gave an update on the project to address beach erosion at the end of Porter Road in Ocean Park.

- Irv and Kimbark met with Peter Slovisky, a marine geologist with the state of Maine. Based on this meeting, Irv presented a set of options to address the issue.
- After discussion, we concluded that we will:
 - Explore the "Coir" and fencing options with the help of a consultant
 - Recommend closing off beach access at Porter Road. We will need to work with Public Works and work with the public to address concerns. Larry recommended that we involve the Town Manager in this process, so she's fully aware.
 - Secure funds as needed
 - Consider pursuing the Christmas tree method next December
- Our hope is that our solution for Porter Road can be a model for other areas of the beach.

Mary Pat Donnellon gave an update on the food waste initiative.

- We had a kick off meeting on January 4. Loranger Memorial School will do a pilot project this semester. The goal will be to build a scalable composting program that we can roll out to all the schools next year.
- After we get this pilot up and running, we can look at expanding into the Town of OOB as well.
- We are interested in any history on this as we know it was done before but fizzled out.
 - Mark knows Randy McMullen who has expertise. He also recommended connecting with the Gardening Club/Community Gardens and DPW.

Mark Koenigs gave an update on the trails initiative.

- Trails are on hiatus for the winter.
- He is working on maps and plans to address accessibility for the Blueberry Plains trails.
- Parking lot is incomplete near Milliken which is frustrating.

Minutes submitted by Mary Pat Donnellon

Kimbark G. Smith, Chair OOB Conservation Commission