

OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday March 11, 2024 7:00 PM

Town Hall

Members present: Kimbark Smith, Irv Paradis, Mark Koenig, Mary Pat Donnellon, Barry Jackman

The meeting started with a request from Old Orchard Beach resident, Arnie Vasiliauskas of 200 W. Grand Avenue, for more specific details on OOB's plans for countering flooding and preparing for future climate related issues.

A long discussion ensued. The conservation committee was involved in the Community Resilience Partnership Program, but does not know what the broader town strategy is. Kimbark is going to write a memo to Diana to get more information.

1. Project Updates by Members

Composting at Loranger School (Mary Pat, Cynthia)

- Cynthia submitted the grant application to GMRI last week, and it's already under review. She's pretty confident that we will hear good news soon.
- Cynthia requested funding to cover the Diggers Cooperative fees for the first year, the composting totes, a "green team" facilitator stipend, green team vests, materials for posters, and summer teacher time.
- Cynthia talked with Scott Guzman at Diggers about their curriculum. They're making powerpoint presentations for each grade that teachers can use and reuse. They'll be on site for each lunch group the first day of composting to introduce the program.
- We're now expecting to start the pilot program in April or May at Loranger.
- Over the summer, teachers will review curriculum to incorporate/emphasize connections between composting and data and climate literacy, which are goals of the grant.
- Several members of the student council want to be on the green team. Cynthia will reach out to teachers to recruit more students. The goal is to have several student experts and adult volunteers to help each lunch block as we start composting.

Beetles for Hemlocks Project (Cynthia, Irv)

- Beetles have been ordered and are in the budget again for next year.
- Irv received definitive word from OOB that volunteers cannot apply pesticides. Needs to confirm that OOB is applying them.

3. Good and Welfare

Kimbark G. Smith, Chair OOB Conservation Commission
Minutes submitted by Mary Pat Donnellon