

# OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday October 15, 2025 @ 7:00 PM  
Town Hall

Attending: Kimbark Smith, Mary Pat Donnellon, Cynthia Nye, Charlie Backus, Barry Jackman

## 1. Plans for FY 26 by Members

Mark and Kimbark had a call with the Town Manager, Asst Town Manager, Regional Manager of SMPDC, and Wright-Pierce - PSA for town council workshop 10/28 6-7 - workshop on the tide gate - Task Force on Coastal Resiliency and marsh health study. The Town got FEMA funding for bringing the beach and dunes to Category B; the ultimate goal is Category G for 100 year storm events. In the last 6 years, we have had (5) 100-year storms. The plan will address 3 areas - Porter, Pier, and Old Salt Road.

Mark walked the beach over three days and took multiple photos at each road entrance. There's a lot of variability in sign design.

Q: What is ConCom's role?

A: The beach is like one of our trails. Each access is part of the environment. Our role is to preserve the environment of the dunes.

Mark also talked with Jeffrey Hinderleiter about the OOB Comprehensive Plan. Mary Pat is on the Comprehensive Plan committee. The long range regional plan includes a multi-use path along the spur into OOB.

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Kimbark - there's an opportunity to approach land owners in the shoreland zone who can't build on their property and invite them to donate it.

Mark showed us a Maine Conserved Lands Map of OOB. Mark will write a letter to the Town Council requesting that town conservation land be registered as conserved land.

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Mary Pat - we need to market trails on AllTrails. She will walk the trails and

create maps to upload.

Mark wants to update the student-made trail map to be accurate and consistent.

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Mary Pat will contact people who signed up to volunteer on trails. Mark wants people to sign up to be on neighborhood crews to monitor and maintain their local trail(s). People can call Town Hall or Public Works to report problems.

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## 2. Good and Welfare

Priorities - trails, recruiting new members

- Charlie brought 3 articles - longer, hotter summers; drone surveying by UNE students found dune damage; invasive species
- Charlie talked with Larry Mead about planting American chestnut trees in Memorial Park. He reached out to Professor Tom Klak at UNE but all his trees are hybrids and under restriction. Dr Klak referred him to a grower of hybrid trees. Jay the gardener may be able to help with watering.

Adjourned at 8:00.

Minutes submitted by Cynthia Nye

Kimbark G. Smith, Chair OOB Conservation Commission