

Old Orchard Beach Conservation Commission Minutes

February 9, 2026

7:00 PM Town Hall

Members in Attendance: Kimbark Smith, Mary Pat Donnellon, Mark Koenigs, Gina Mannarino, Charlie Backus, Cynthia Nye

Updates by Members

Marsh Resilience - Kimbark met with the Town Manager and consultants from Wright-Pierce, environmental engineering consulting company in Portland, came up with action items to get more salt water into the marshes.

- Contact UNE environmental classes to resume working with an Ocean Park group to monitor the marsh water
- Turn one outflow in the tidegate into an inflow-outflow to increase the volume of salt water coming into the marsh. Waiting for a quote.
- The automatic tidegate isn't working, so it is being opened and closed manually; for now, it's open.
- Kimbark reviewed the reasons why Goosefare Brook and marshes are filling in with sand from erosion at Camp Ellis.
- Phragmites is being reduced by more salt water, but will still need remediation in parts of the marsh where salt water doesn't reach.

Trail work -

- Mark reported that the Industrial Arts program can't build three new kiosks.
- Mark requested a PO for lumber. Lumber should be stored in the animal shelter.
- Blueberry Plains solar farm trail has been staked, waiting for DPW to lay wood chips
- Meeting on Tuesday 5 pm in the library community room to get community input on what to put in the Maine Trail Program grant application (max request is \$250,00)
 - Ahearn Acres trail upgrades
 - Enhance Milliken Mills Trails
 - Canoe launch into Mill Pond
 - Canoe launch into Little River Estuary
 - Computer mapping program for consistent, updated kiosk signage

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

- Predator beetles have been ordered; Town of OOB, OPA, and Loranger sent checks so we are paid in full.

Composting

- Town composting site at Casella: Mary Pat will keep working with Diana and the next Town Manager on a solution. Town Council is concerned that cost will rise so hasn't yet been approved.

American Chestnuts for Memorial Park

- Charlie is still working on finding some saplings. He has a new lead.

Logo/Branding

- Gina will work on a new logo for ConCom.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM

Minutes submitted by Cynthia Nye, secretary
Kimbark Smith, Chair OOB Conservation Commission