

Old Orchard Beach Conservation Commission Minutes

February 18, 2009

7:00 PM, OOB Town Hall

Members present: Andrea Berlin, Linda Jenkins, Ginger McMullin, Mark Koenigs

Memorial Park Members present: Pat Holland

Honorary Member John Bird

Budget: Andrea discussed the 2010 commission budget.

- \$250 will be needed for dues to Maine Association of Conservation Commissions
- \$700 is usually allotted for courses and seminars for commission members
- The town manager would like the Veteran's Memorial Park budget to be \$50,000
 - Lawn mowing is about \$10,000.
 - The park subcommittee may look into using a student as a seasonal gardener this year to reduce expenses.
 - There is an estimate from Extreme Clean for \$2,750.00 for this coming year to do trash and litter removal for all of First St. and the park from Memorial to Labor Day, and then weekends through October. It is unclear right now whether or not this money may come from the Public Works budget.
 - Upgrading the park's electrical system and many repairs added a lot to expenses this year.
 - There was discussion of preparing a monthly expense report in the future as well as more formal accounting for volunteer time.
 - Andrea received a letter from Sen. Collins' office that they will try to help find money for the memorial upgrade.

The park subcommittee is looking for a way to fund the planting of a rain garden. Labor might be done as part of a course, but the Conservation Commission is also looking for grant funds for plant material. Would like to be able to do this on Armed Services Day. A seashore garden is also being planned near the lighthouse in the park. Saco & Biddeford Savings Bank is being approached for a donation. The go-ahead has been given for drainage work in the park.

Andrea and John Waters, the town's new tree warden, met with John Glass from FEMA to look at damage from this year's storms. FEMA will be approving the request for money for help with large limb removal.

Project Canopy: A workshop on Project Canopy was attended by John Waters, John Bird, Ginger McMullin and Jessica Wagner. It is hoped that 3 trees can be purchased for the park. The Conservation Commission will combine efforts with the Ocean Park Ecology Committee and Ocean Park Conservation Society to write the grant.

50 Acre Wood Subcommittee: Linda Jenkins gave an update on the subcommittee. Old wood from the metal bleachers was burned as a Fire Department exercise today. The department will also be practicing with a new metal saw which will help complete the removal of the bleachers. Roofing material has been delivered in advance of a price increase on March 1. The subcommittee is starting to look at the clubhouse building, and would like to use a room there for upcoming planning meetings in the fall. It is hoped that people from the prior Steering Committee will participate.

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The Eastern Trail Alliance (John Andrews) has interest in the possibility of a trail in the ballpark area. Saco is giving money for connection of the trail from Thornton Academy to the Milliken Mills section.

Linda would like to start having some smaller meetings in different community areas (e.g. Cider Hill, Fern Avenue area, Ocean Park, etc.) this spring and summer. It was suggested that it may be good to start signing up individuals who may have interest in different aspects of the ballpark project.

Yard sales, flea markets, etc. are all possibilities for the ballpark this season.

Energy Subcommittee: Robin Dayton presented some information on a grant program that Efficiency Maine (part of the Maine Public Utilities Commission) may be able to get for anemometers to be placed in different areas to test the feasibility of wind power. If Efficiency Maine procures the grant, they will put out an RFP so that towns can apply for funds. Efficiency Maine is also applying for stimulus money for this purpose. They hope to fund 50 anemometers throughout the state. There is a pre-grant process and the timeline for applications will be very short. If selected the town would need to collect data from the anemometer for 1 year. Efficiency Maine would provide an engineering report. Matching funds are typically not required, but the town must have insurance. The energy subcommittee would need to investigate:

- Whether there is a permitting process required (setbacks, etc.)
- Up-front site work. Would need to work with planning dept, planning dept., town manager, etc. to determine where the anemometer (or eventual turbine, if it happens) would go.

A motion to have the 50 Acre Wood subcommittee work with the Energy subcommittee to aggressively pursue this grant was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the commission.

Andrea discussed the new Donor Recognition tree now in the town hall lobby, and asked members how they felt about different levels of giving for the engraved leaves for the tree. The actual purchase, planting and care of an average tree probably exceeds \$500, and the more ornamental trees cost more. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to set the levels at \$500, \$750 and \$1,000 for the different colors of leaves, all to be acknowledged as contributions to the tree fund. An individual tree could be dedicated for the donation of \$2,000, which would be represented by an apple under the tree.

There will be a workshop after the Town Council meeting on March 3 to discuss the Milliken area flooding problems. This will be a workshop with the council and residents.

ACTION ITEMS:

Veteran's Memorial Park clean up day on May 16

Town-wide clean-up day on April 25 (Earth Day April 22)

Energy subcommittee and 50 Acre Wood subcommittee to meet to pursue grant

Next meeting March 18 to meet with Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. Anyone who spoke with neighboring towns' commissions should call and invite them to the meeting.