

TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013 at 7:00 PM  
OOB TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL

Meeting Called to Order at 7:10 pm

Member Roll Call: John Bird - Chair, Kimbark Smith, Patricia Holland, and Mark Koenigs

Absence: Karen Brozek

Guest: Elizabeth Mazzurco

Secretary Note: Public is welcome to attend and participate in the Conservation Commission meetings at the pleasure of the Chair. People interested in volunteering to plan, fund raise, and construct recreational trails in OOB are encouraged to contact the Chair John Bird or Mark Koenigs. New members are needed and would be welcomed.

ITEM 1. Minutes

Reviewed minutes. Section 3 to be updated with notes read by Mr. Koenigs from hand written notes. Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes with corrections as read. Meeting minutes were approved; 3-0-1 vote with Ms. Holland abstaining.

ITEM 2. Subcommittee updates

A. Veterans Memorial Park

No meetings held in June or July. Dog Park is open with new grass and it looks great. Please manage your dog messes and keep them from digging in the park. Chair Bird asked how the maintenance was being done. The maintenance contractor is working 10 hours/week. The mowing is looking good. Weeds are being pulled from most garden areas. The pest and weed spraying was done and warning signs were posted at all the entrances.

Chair Bird brought up the Ellis Development property (Heath Street) easement and the status of the \$50,000 of development improvements to the park and easement by the developer. We noted that the building construction is progressing, and that the trees and brush along the property line next to the building have been taken down and are lying on the ground.

B. Eastern Trail Connection Design and Permitting Steps

Chair Bird reported on the Budget for 2013-14. Town Council approved \$5,000 for design tasks for the OOB to ET Connector Trail. Chair Bird said that no funds were appropriated for the Forester.

Prioritized the engineering design tasks: 1) Pond View to ET swale crossing, 2) Ross Road pedestrian crossing, 3) 6-8 Wild Dunes Way shoulder trail section, 4) Ross Road shoulder trail section, and 5) School Street Extension trail design.

### C. “Kiosk” Management

Materials for one kiosk have been purchased including the plexiglass. Mr. Koenigs to coordinate with Randy McMullin a weekend date to fabricate the kiosk. The installation and content for the kiosk at Blueberry Plains shall follow in the fall. Discussed hunting restrictions on Town Property for safety and other considerations. Research on hunting restrictions and rules needed.

### ITEM 3. Blueberry Plains Use Discussion

Elizabeth Mazzurco, OOB resident and abutter to the Blueberry Plains shared her knowledge of the Plains and personal experiences of her use of the Plains. She regularly walks her dog and enjoys the Plains. She offered to volunteer on a Blueberry Plains Subcommittee if one was started to oversee the development and management of the Plains.

A summary of Ms. Mazzurco’s statements to the Conservation Commission regarding the Blueberry Plains:

- The Plains is composed of a fragile top layer of compost and soil.
- Motorbikes have tortured what were once pleasant paths into unwalkable terrains of sand; killing native plants and trees.
- Injuring low bush blueberries, destroying mosses and endangered plants.
- Exposing root systems of trees.
- Delicate environment should be protected and used gently.
- Conserved, not destroyed.

The vegetation in the Plains is very thin and fragile overlaying sand. Motorbikes have recently been using the Plains trails and destroying vegetation. Ms. Mazzurco has had some personal encounters while walking on the trails with motorbikes. She has called the OOB Police to complain about safety concerns and the damages they cause. OOB PD has researched her complaint and responded to her they have no jurisdiction to stop or control the motorbikes from riding off road on private or public land. Based on her experiences she prefers ATVs to motorbikes.

We discussed the primary use of the Blueberry Plains and the content of signage in the kiosk. We discussed the formation of a Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission for the Blueberry Plains Properties.

Ms. Mazzurco also commented that the motorbike users commented to her that the property signs are on the road side and not visible or noticeable on the backside or abutter entrances. The existing trails traverse multiple properties along Ross Road and over to the CMP powerline easements.

### ITEM 4. Volunteers - Rev3

We reviewed the call for (15-20) volunteers for the Aid Station #5 at ETA parking lot on Pine Point Road on the Eastern trail. The REV3 event volunteer date is Sunday, August 25, 2013. If you would like to volunteer to support and generate fund raising for the Conservation Commission sign up on the Rev3tri/Maine website @ <http://rev3tri.com/maine/volunteer-me/sign-up-5/>

ITEM 5. Education (Certified Wildlife Habitat signs and certificates, Activities Book, Facebook, etc.)

We have certified wildlife habitat signs and certificates for the three Town owned properties: 1) the OOB Animal Shelter property on Portland Ave., 2) Woodlot on Portland Ave., and 3) Blueberry Plains properties.

Chair Bird presented the Wells Reserve Woodlot tours which will be held on Thursday from 10 am to Noon in Wells, Maine. Cost is \$7/reservation.

There has been no progress on setting up a Facebook page for the OOB Conservation Commission.

ITEM 6. "Check-in" and further discussion of plans for upcoming year

Chair Bird reviewed the approved FY '13-'14 budget for the OOB Conservation Commission. We have funds budgeted for trail engineering, advertising, dues, education, and materials for two kiosk signs. No funds were approved for hiring the Forester to survey and provide management recommendations of the Town owned properties with wooded areas.

ITEM 7. Other Business

No other business.

Next monthly meeting – August 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm at OOB Town Hall, Town Council Chambers. (The August monthly meeting was held on August 14, 2013.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

*Mark Koenigs*

---

Mark Koenigs, Secretary  
(Approved on 8/14/13)