

TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013 at 7:00 PM
OOB TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05 pm

Member Roll Call: John Bird - Chair, Kimbark Smith, Jean LeClerk and Mark Koenigs
(arrived at 7:17) Absence: Karen Borzek and Pat Holland, excused.

Public attendee: Jerome Begert and Richard Greenlee

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: August 14, 2013, October 14, 2013, November 26, 2013

August 14, 2013 meeting minutes were approved, 3-0. The October 14, 2014 meeting minutes were approved, 3-0.

ITEM 2. Comment Letter to DEP in support of their proposed 2013 addendum of the Goosefare to the Maine DEP Bacteria TMDL List – Mark Koenigs

Kudos for getting out support letter(s) to Maine DEP. Discussion of Goosefare Brook and Ocean Park Beach with respect to the high bacteria counts. Testing of the Ocean Park homes was started by OOB DPW by appointment. Testing is on hold during the winter.

ITEM 3. Subcommittee updates

A. Veterans Memorial Park

No update.

B. Eastern Trail Connection Design and Permitting Steps

BH2M submitted the preliminary survey plans for review. Action Item: Mark Koenigs follow up with Mr. Robertson, OOB DPW Director, on the trail design drawings using the survey plans. Goal is design the trail sections using the survey mapping during this winter.

C. “Kiosk” Management and content

Karen Brozek is updating the Blueberry Plains kiosk content.

ITEM 4. Project Canopy Application

Canopy grant application was submitted on December 4, 2013 for the Milliken Mills Woods property and the Animal Shelter property. The Forest Service grant provided funds to make a plan for using and nurturing the wood lots (forested property). We will expect word in January from Project Canopy on our grant application status.

There was discussion of what our possible path forward could be given we receive the grant.

ITEM 5. FEMA/Flood Insurance

Chair Bird explained, provided information and where residents could get more specific information on the FEMA flood map change proposed. FEMA is expanding the zones of potential flooding and thereby reducing the insurance coverage by FEMA.

Jerome Begert commented on newspaper foot note, "It is an insurance bailout not a sea level rise or environmental issue." Support your Town Council to defend our insurance rights.

ITEM 6. Goosefare Pollution Update

Previously covered under Item 2. Discussion

ITEM 7. Discussion on the Town's Comprehensive Plan and our input into it

Chair Bird gave an update on the status of the Comprehensive Plan for 2014. It is in the works; the Comprehensive Plan Committee and Town Planner are close to the next step and need editorial comments on the draft Comprehensive Plan language.

ITEM 8. Education (Certified Wildlife Habitat signs, etc.)

The booklet on trees; Karen Brozek is working on it.

ITEM 9. Further discussion on plans for upcoming year/Next Year's Budget

Chair Bird handed out Munis report on the Conservation Commission's budget year to date. Chair Bird informed us that we were projected to overspend our advertising budget for meetings and asked that we consider making a change to our budget. Mr. Koenigs made a motion, "No change to our budget". Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Discussion. Motion passed 3-1.

Further discussion on budget. Conservation Commission budget total FY13 is \$9,140 and the Memorial Park is \$44,300. Both are under the DPW Department as line items. Mr. Smith commented that the Conservation Commission's annual budget is a joke given the importance of conservation as it relates to our main economy; travel and tourism.

ITEM 10. Other Business

No other business discussed.

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. LeClerc. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Mark Koenigs

Mark Koenigs, Past Secretary 2013
(Approved on 5/2/14)