

September 8, 2014

Old Orchard Beach Conservation Commission

Town Hall, Council Chambers

Commission Members: John Bird Chairman, Kimbark Smith Commissioner,
Richard Greenlee Commissioner.

Guest: Cynthia Nye

Meeting Minutes

1. Conservation related projects with proposed connection with Old Orchard Beach Schools.

Cynthia Nye gave us a presentation of Conservation Project Ideas. This presentation gave us an overview broken down by grade levels. This is based upon actual learning activities planned for the 2014/2015 school year. This was backed by a well written plan. This plan covers all of the current activities in planning and implementation. This plan includes but is not limited to Eastern Trail Connection, Milliken Trails and BlueBerry Plains locations. Copy attached.

New discussion ideas also included the parking lot area near the Alternative Education building. An idea was put forth to reclaim the Forest area for education and recreation. The current garden area should be documented and cleaned. This would all be supported by students and volunteers.

2. Milliken Mill Woods project trail development session on site for September 13 2014 was confirmed.

3. Other business: John Bird and Kimbark Smith to investigate improper planting in the Dune area.

Votes:

1. Motion by Kimbark Smith to purchase GPS device and large length measuring tape. Seconded by Richard Greenlee. John Bird, Kimbark Smith and Richard Greenlee voted yes.

2. Discussion on Town Proposed additional parking space on West Grand Avenue and Colby. Based upon safety concerns and actual room, motion put forth by Chairman John Bird to oppose proposed parking spaces. Seconded by Kimbark Smith. John Bird, Kim bark Smith and Richard Greenlee voted yes to oppose.

8:30 pm: motion to adjourn by Kim bark Smith. Seconded by Richard Greenlee. John Bird, Kimbark Smith and Richard Greenlee voted yes to adjourn. .

Conservation Project Ideas

Cynthia Nye, Content Area Literacy Specialist and Curriculum Integrator

I. School Ideas/Plans

Overarching Goals: fostering curiosity and confidence; exploring science and social studies/history; engaging in our natural world and local community; learning for a future that includes college/continuing education, career choices, and healthy personal, family, and community life

K-3

- Forest ecology/logging/Project Learning Tree (Sue G grade 3)
- Field trips? Audubon marsh, winter walk
- Jameson outdoor classroom and nature trail

G4

- Conservation/engineering: Bridges, beavers. We will study bridges, build model bridges, design & build simple bridges for conservation area. My husband will demo power tools to cut boards and drill pilot holes; kids will hammer/screw together. May need tools and adult help.
- Maine Wildlife Park

G5

- NGSS field experience: Ferry Beach Ecology School, Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- Clean Water Program based on Project WET, sister program to Project Learning Tree

G6

- Wants in on conservation projects
- Biomes
- Plovers signage
- Invasive species (make signs, brochure?)
- Saco River watershed
- UNE field trip

G7

- Jameson Woods walk, common tree ID, human impact
- Lunder New Naturalists: using iPads to ID trees and wildflowers
- Challenge-based project for Lunder focused on conservation/education—can we propose a plan for the children's area?*
- John and I going to Project Wild Aquatic, sister program to Project Learning Tree

G8

- Forest Inventory Growth plot

HS—Pathways

- Wildlife Garden
- Corner Forest/Park
- Volunteer/community service management
- Signs of the Seasons Maine Phenology Project (explore)

K-12

- Composting with Garbage to Garden
- Renew recycling
- Use conservation land
- Greenhouse
- Informational text lessons on conservation, ecology, climate, etc.

Somewhere

- Nature notebook like Cape Elizabeth Land Trust's
- Chestnut tree restoration project (need to investigate)

II. What I've seen that we might do

Blueberry Plains kiosk (OOB Conservation Commission)

- Google maps view
- History of property
- Cautions (ticks, poison ivy)
- Rules
- Plants
- Animals
- Chalkboard, chalk for sightings
- Dog water bowl

Mount Agamenticus (public; how staffed/funded?)

1. Kiosk at summit

- List of trees
- List of animals
- List of birds
- Tracks
- Tick info
- Rules
- Trail map
- More? check photos

2. Story Walks™ Laminated story with scan code (I have seen just a book pulled apart and laminated for alternative to purchased book at Mt. A, but Mt A is forest ecology, the other birdwatching.) The follow-up boards at Mount A explain the science behind the story.

3. Tree ID hinged info posts

4. Boxes for maps and donations

5. Portapotty house

6. Bridges & boardwalks

7. Birdhouses (perches bad)

8. Road crossing and other signs

9. Magnificent brochure and online information: geology, forest types, rules, map, etc.

10. Learning Lodge (we didn't go in; check online)

Orono Bog Walk (town forest, philanthropy funding)

- Kiosk with chalkboard
- “How you can help” information
- Artwork auction fundraiser
- Bridges & boardwalks (Trex)
- Magnificent signs
- Toilet house sponsored by businesses

Saco Heath (Nature Conservancy)

- Information board
- Bridges & boardwalks (Trex)
- Benches

Eastern Trail (Alliance)

- Benches
- Fences
- Empty kiosk at Cascade Road OOB

Jameson Woods

- Bridges
- Outdoor classroom

Dirigo Drive Trail (2 parts)**Milliken Mills Trail**

- Parking area
- Bike rack
- Kiosk: plants, wildlife, invasives, rules, Google Earth map, etc.
- Trail map with info
- Portapotty house
- Learning lodge?!
- Children’s area: signs, story walk, picnic tables, boardwalk to road crossing
- Road crossing
- Bridges and boardwalks on trail
- Signage
- Benches

Possible Connections

- Grant apps
- Community support
- In-kind donations
- PTO
- Conservation Commission: forester, engineer, more Tree Tours!
- Town Hall will print guides/brochures
- DPW sign shop
- Tech projects: engineering and digital, art/media classes
- School sending teachers to Project Wild Aquatic, other workshops
- School needs more E in STEM curriculum (science, tech, engineering, math)
- OOB history project
- Trolley tour offer
- What else?....