

## **OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Monday, February 24, 2015, 7:00 PM

OOB Town Hall, Council Chambers

### Minutes

A more detailed record of the meeting can be found on the DVD recording of the televised meeting maintained by the Town Clerk's Office or at:

[http://www.townhallstreams.com/locations/old-orchard-beach-me/events/24437/oob\\_council\\_chambers](http://www.townhallstreams.com/locations/old-orchard-beach-me/events/24437/oob_council_chambers)

**David Parker, Forester gave a powerpoint presentation on his Forestry Survey of the Milliken Mill Woods Natural Trail Area, which was partially sponsored by Project Canopy of the Maine Forest Service. A copy of the presentation is attached below after the minutes.**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:01 pm

Present: John Bird - Chair, Richard Greenlee, Kimbark Smith, Eileen Payette, Karen Brozek and David Parker, Forester, Andrea Berlin, Jay Chase and Mark Koenigs

1. Minutes – No minutes were available at this time for review.

2. Subcommittee updates

A. Veterans Memorial Park - Andrea Berlin gave a report on things that were happening at the Veterans Memorial Park. The Sub-committee is working on designing a memorial for Vietnam and Gulf War Veterans. They are planning to call for a charrette on the subject at the Police Station on March 28, 2015 at 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. This will be open to the public. Construction maybe in the Fall.

Herbicide use on town property - Bill Robertson, DPW Director has agreed that the contract for lawn maintenance in the park should be put out to bid again due to non-compliance by the current contractor. The current contractor has been non-responsive.

Use of kiosk in Memorial Park – It was agreed that the Conservation Commission could use one face (inside facing) of the 'kiosk' on Staples Street for information about the OOB-ET trail.

#### B. Eastern Trail Connection Design & Progress - Mark Koenigs, Karen Brozek

Sign information & construction – Until having an internal meeting March 5 to make up an agreement on access to the Eastern Trail. Going through the process. Karen & Mark working on the content of the signs. Ginger McMullin will provide support with maps. Jim Bucar said that he could provide an Eastern Trail map for their side of the 'kiosk' at the Pond View connection. Sign team discussion tour tentatively scheduled for March 1. 'Q' sign referrals possible.

Discussion on Trail budget. DPW to do a lot, but Bill may be overloaded this Spring. 2 additional 'kiosk' sign materials. Retaining wall design, crossing lights, etc. Projects are a capital investment for the town and should be projected going forward.

#### C. Milliken Mill Woods Project – Kimbark Smith

Trail Cutting, etc.

There's four feet of snow on the ground. – That's where we are.

Discussion on Trail budget. Need to get a survey on the town road (Kapok St.) and adjoining town property. No full bridges across the stream for now. Material for five(?) 'bog' bridges (boardwalks for occasional wet areas on the trail); possibly 2"x10"x10' planks over corduroy log base. 4' x 6' ? 15x\$12 = \$180 – 200 w/ lag bolts? Budget for port-a-potties? Add to town list? Plans for the future. Waste disposal at the animal shelter building? Budget discussion.

Taken out of agenda order: Motion by Kimbark Smith to authorize funds for repair of three town water level monitors up to \$650. Second by Richard Greenlee. Voting yes: John Bird, Karen Brozek, Kimbark Smith and Richard Greenlee.

Voting opposed: no votes.

Taken out of agenda order: Seminar & course attendance

Still no agenda for the Maine Coast Heritage Trust Land Conservation Conference April 24 – 25 in Topsham. Chair Bird will contact everybody when it becomes available.

3. Collaboration with Saco Conservation Commission - John Bird

Nothing New.

4. Goosefare Pollution Steering Committee Update – John Bird

There will be a Stream Assessment and Monitoring Committee (SMAC) meeting for the Goosefare Brook WMP project.- [Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12:30pm](#). John Bird will report on that at the next meeting.

5. Budget

Enterococci testing funds for the shoulder seasons - Maine Healthy Beaches does testing now for the summer (June, July & August), but not for other months. We would like to get information on April – May & Oct – Nov. to see if the pollution is a chronic problem or mainly due to the summer influx of people in the area. Volunteer collection of samples but the analysis needs to be done by an outside lab. No firm answer as to price. Bill Robertson has done a good job at dye testing, but without result. The next step would be 'smoke testing' for which he would like to contract out. Again, no firm answer as to price.

Tools? – Chain saw, Brushmaster, etc. Trails will need to be maintained after initial rough cuts. Question of where to store them. Animal shelter building?

6. Other Business

Other environmental subjects of concern and other budgetary needs for the coming year. Chair Bird reported that he had circulated an informal survey to a number of environmentally concerned people with subjects that have been mentioned as ones that the Conservation Commission might be concerned with and asking what they felt was most important. Not all had responded as yet, but the standout subject appeared to be dealing with the pollution in the Goosefare. Also, question about "dead area" in Saco Bay and concern about "impervious surfaces" in OOB – OOB is currently double what

the state feels is appropriate and it keeps on coming – impacts everyone downstream.  
The survey is appended to these minutes, below.

Milliken House park - As part of the development of the Milliken House property, the developers had offered to give the historic house and one acre of land to the Town to preserve it, but subsequently the Town Council indicated that they would reject the gift, so there is nothing further to be done about it.

7. Good & Welfare

Nothing.

Motion to adjourn by Kimbark Smith, Second by Richard Greenlee

Voting yes John Bird, Karen Brozek, Kimbark Smith, Richard Greenlee

Voting opposed no votes

**Presentation by David Parker, Forester**

**Forestry Survey of the Milliken Mill Woods Natural Trail Area,  
partially sponsored by Project Canopy of the Maine Forest Service.**

# Old Orchard Beach Woodlot Management Plan



Prepared By  
David C Parker, ACF  
Parker Forestry Associates, LLC  
July 2014





“Good fences make good neighbors”



The landscape in MMW



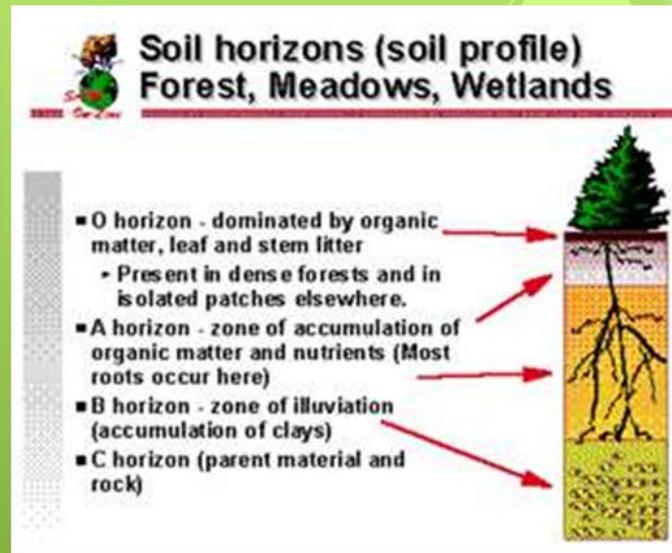


Wildlife habitat

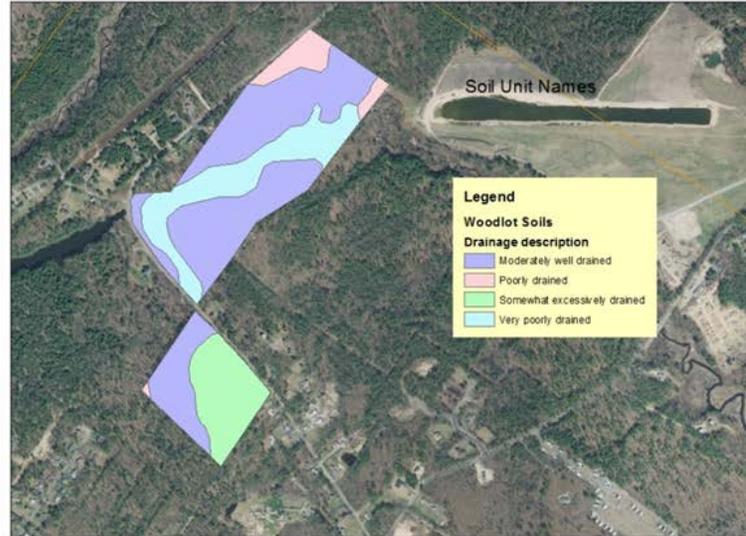
Clearing used as wood yard 20 years ago

Hollowed tree with cavities

## Forest soils in the woodlots

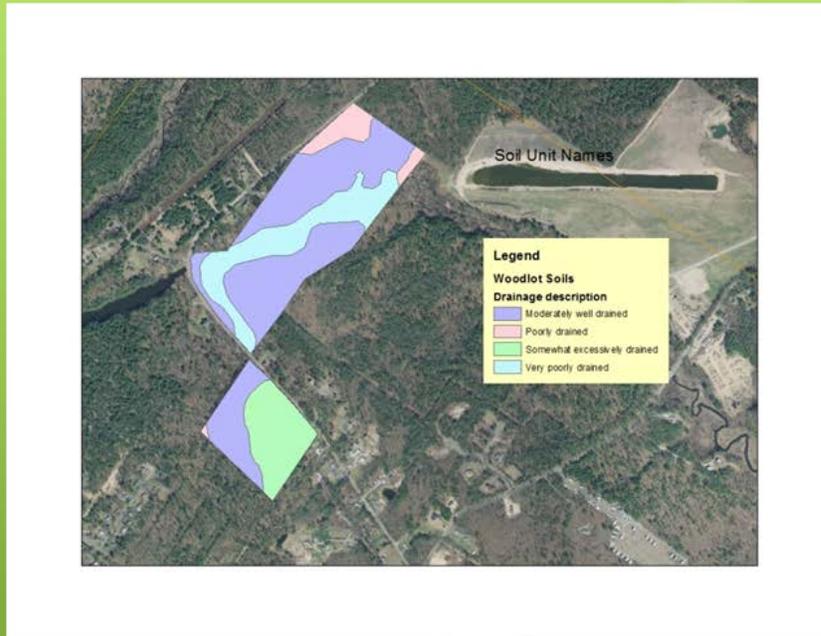


# Soils Mapping Unit Names

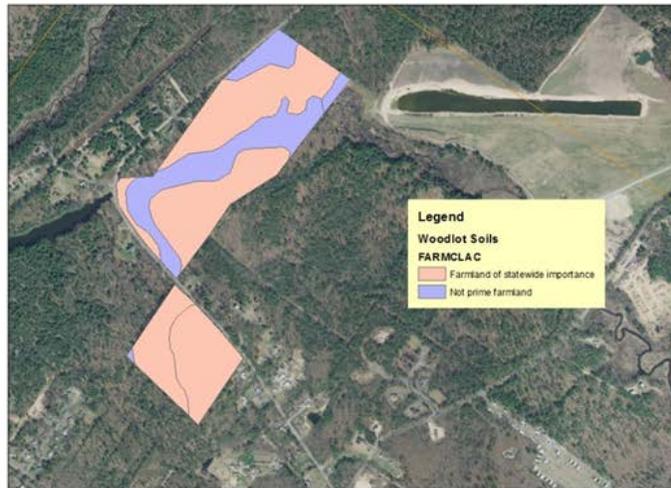


Slide 8

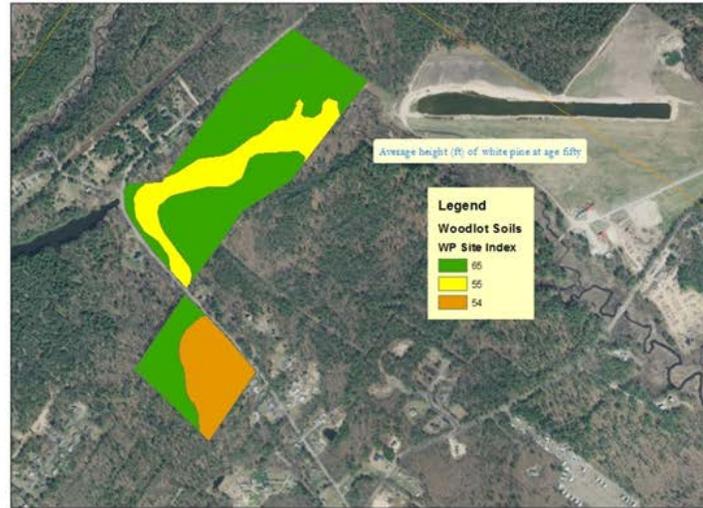
# Soils Drainage Description



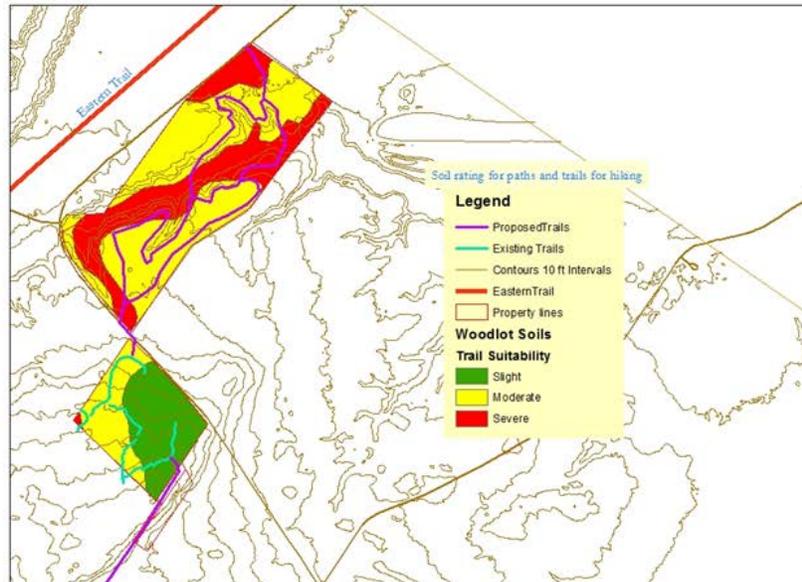
## Farm Soils Classification

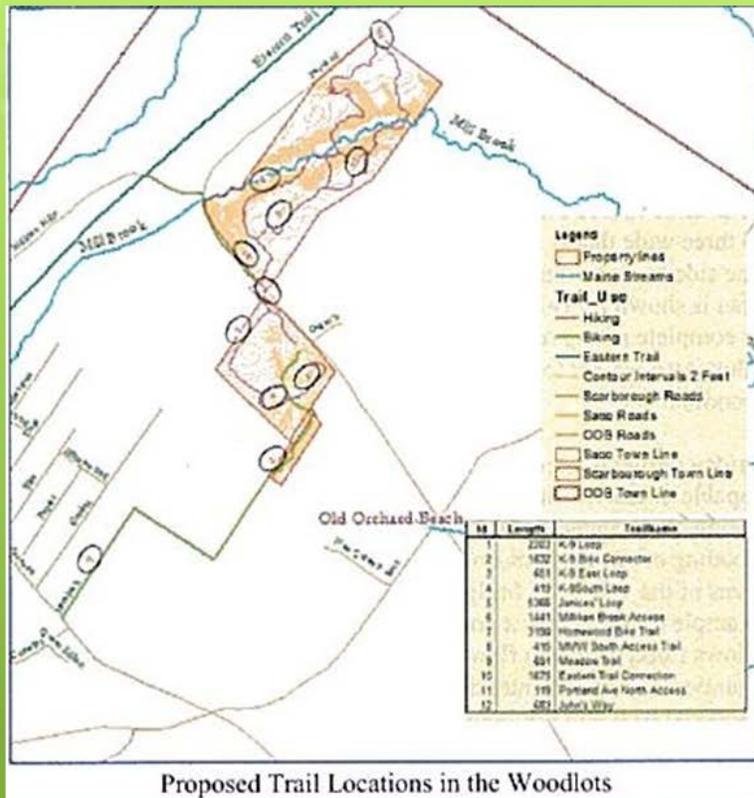


# 50 year old height of white pine



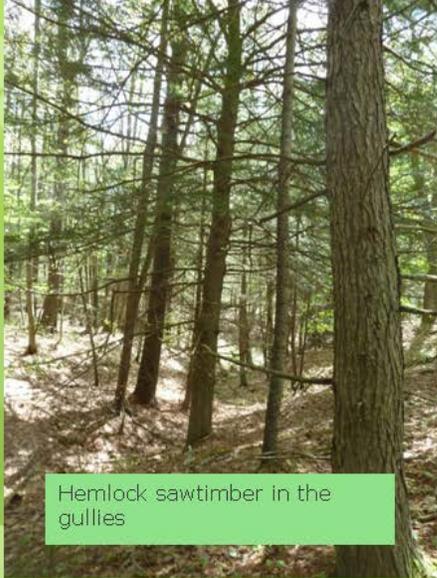
## Soils and trails siting



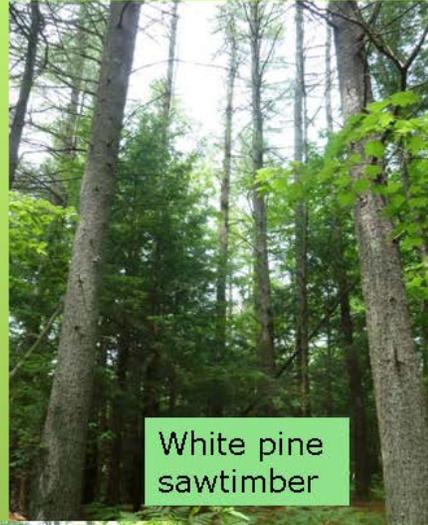


Proposed Trail Locations in the Woodlots

## Forest Cover Types



Hemlock sawtimber in the gullies



White pine sawtimber



Red maple  
Bottom land

## Problems in the woodlots

Burning bush



Bittersweet



Tree stands for hunting



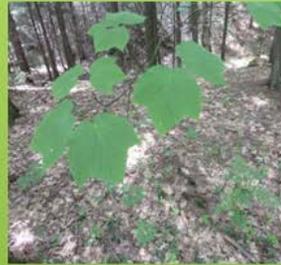
## Cool things in the woodlots



Witchhazel



Indian pipes



Striped maple



Mill Brook



American chestnut

# Recommendations for the properties

## Educational signs

Connectivity along creek lines from one area of forest to another is vital for the movement of animals



**'Edge Effect'** of sunlight and weed ingress, habitat disturbance, and predation by non-rainforest species extends into the forest for many metres

Fallen woody debris provides habitat

Many insects on leaves and bark

Many birds nesting and feeding on insects, fruits and nectar

Insects, leaves and woody debris provide a steady year-round input of food and shelter into the creek

Mature trees overhanging the creek provide shade to lower water temperature and large roots to stabilise banks

Many rainforest species keep well away from the forest edge and will not cross open ground

Exclusion of sunlight prevents ingress of weed species

Canopied low light rainforest environment provides good habitat for wildlife including birds, reptiles, marsupials and frogs.

Fallen branches form shelter for fish

Many small animals including fish and platypus inhabit the well shaded creek

Hollows in trees provide habitat for birds and bats

**Why We Need Adequate Riparian Rainforest Buffers Along Obi Obi Creek**

[http://www.obibiparklands.com/images/Riparian\\_Large.jpg](http://www.obibiparklands.com/images/Riparian_Large.jpg)

Sites for benches for rest and relaxation overlooking Mill Brook



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## Creature comforts

Bridges



Parking area



Restrooms and picnic tables



## Places to protect

Archeological site



Wildflowers



Special trees



# Educational opportunity

Natural events



Vernal pool habitat



Forest diseases





Invasive plants species



Riparian zone ecology



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The End

## **Environmental subjects of concern for OOB's future?**

Below are some environmental subjects of concern to Old Orchard Beach that have been mentioned as items that the Conservation Commission should look into and work on. Please look at them and choose maybe 3 most important ones for us to work on for the near future or rank them as to importance. Additions and comments are welcome.

USA On-road Bike Trail(s) – coming soon to OOB - greater recognition and help in creating, signing, etc.

Blueberry Plains easement(s) - try to obtain further easements on open neighboring properties for expansion of open space

Conservation Easements in general - greater recognition and help in uses and creating to protect natural areas

OOB Conservation Land Trust – need for independent entity to hold OOB conservation land

Milliken Mills Pond reservation – obtain protective easements for the shoreline of the Milliken Mills Pond and its headwaters – recreational uses

Dunes – Greater information and urging of repair & growth

Sea Level Rising - prepare for future problems - Saco Bay CCs meeting

Plovers – greater recognition and help

OOB downtown trash collection – problems with trash transfer

Saco Bay - Investigation into report of “dead area”

Shoreland Zoning – previous attempt was the absolute minimum allowed by the state – shoreland areas need more and better protection

Pollution of the Goosefare in OOB and Saco – ongoing

Impervious surfaces – cause runoff and pollution of other areas – greater information and urging of minimal use - Maine goal: 9%; OOB currently at 18%

Run-off control for streams (impoundment areas for flood control) – create “slowdown areas” in streams to slowdown downstream flooding

Salt Marsh / Fresh Water control – salt marshes are being changed by more and more fresh water runoff from the rest of OOB due to increased impervious surfaces

Kayak launches into Rachel Carson & Little River Marshes - areas to allow launching of canoes & kayaks into the Rachel Carson & Little River Marshes to allow for recreational exploration

Invasive Species - greater recognition and help in natural controls

Breakwater retaining wall at Goosefare mouth – may be degrading and need repair