

OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday September 9, 2024 7:00 PM

Town Hall

Members attending: Kimbark Smith, Irv Paradis, Charles Barkus, Mary Pat Donnellon, Cynthia Nye

Members of the public: Janet Anderson, Kayci Willis

1. Project Updates by Members

Loranger School (Cynthia, Mary Pat)

- Hemlock wooly adelgid predator beetles: 1500 released in OOB/OP this year; as a nonprofit, we received an end-of-season donation of 900 beetles from the lab; ConCom paid \$150 for packaging and shipping.
- Trail map has been updated, Kimbark has 450 copies to distribute.
- Milliken Mills North kiosk: will focus on trees, students are working on signs now, waiting for a trail map from Mark
- Composting: Mary Pat - has started with kitchen and soft rollout in the cafeteria. ConCom set aside some funds to support composting.
- FERN plot - Forest Ecology Research Network plot in Jameson Woods

OPA Environment and Natural Resources Committee (Irv)

- Received a grant from Project Canopy for \$15,000
- Forester Jesse Duplin will write a study and plan.
- Their first step will be geolocating hemlock trees to tag; Irv bought 1,000 tree tags and gave 200 to Cynthia for her projects.
- Make a plan to treat them with beetles and pesticides.

Kayci and Janet introduced themselves. Kayci is a Forest Programs Coordinator with Maine TREE Foundation and lives in OOB. Janet lives in OP, is interested in marsh issues, and connected with us after attending a program on marshes at Scarborough Library.

Local news (Charlie, et al)

- Hybrid American chestnuts have been planted at Munjoy Hill in Portland
Two native seedlings planted in fall 2022 are growing at the Ballpark.
- Solar farms can be installed on PFAS contaminated soil. Kimbark mentioned Permafix - a company piloting a way to remove PFAS.

Flooding (Irv, Kimbark)

- Ocean Park Association sent a letter (4/22/2024) to Town Manager Diana Asanza requesting a community-wide meeting with OOB Town Council to discuss flood mitigation and a town climate action plan. Diana hasn't replied. Irv and Mary Pat Donnellon will visit Diana or her administrative assistant to discuss this issue. The OPA wants a response from the Town on this matter!
- Kimbark - the Wright Pierce Project to evaluate the marshes will start in September.

2. Good and Welfare

- Cynthia mentioned that OOB has or had a Climate Resilience group that started with a community meeting in February 2022.

Minutes submitted by Cynthia Nye.

Kimbark G. Smith, Chair OOB Conservation Commission