

OLD ORCHARD BEACH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for February 4, 2011

Members Present: John Bird, Ginger McMullin, Pierre Bouthiller. Alternates: Pat Holland

Minutes for December were approved pending minor spelling correction.

The list of priorities developed at the January meeting were displayed. All members have now voted on their top three choices and results were:

1. Open Space and Natural Areas Inventory (5 votes)
2. Earth Day / Blueberry Plains Cleanup (4 votes)
3. Blueberry Plains (2 votes)

Comprehensive Plan input, the Ocean Park tidegate, working more closely with the Planning Board and Shoreland Zoning each got one vote.

Memorial Park Subcommittee: Pat Holland read the subcommittee minutes from January 27. The subcommittee is considering a nightly or weekly flag ceremony, and discussed fund raising for the Veteran's Memorial. Gardens and flowers for honoring the veterans of Desert Storm are another need.

A skating rink is being built at the petanque courts, and should be open within the week. A Christmas tree celebration for this year is being contemplated, as well as activities for Illumination Night. Plants will be sold to benefit the park at Taste of OOB on May 1.

Granite plaques are being ordered for identifying park trees. Subcommittee is also looking into purchase of new security cameras.

No new updates were available from the Alternative Energy Subcommittee.

Andrea Berlin passed out copies of a summary of the budget for the Conservation Commission, which will be included as part of the Public Works budget. \$2,900 will be available to the Commission in addition to the Memorial Park budget, which is approximately \$45,250 as presently proposed. Ginger and Andrea will meet with Bill Robertson (DPW) and Jack Turcotte (Town Mgr.) to discuss. Desire is to keep the park budget a separate line item from the rest of the CC budget.

John Bird discussed the York County Renewable Energy Alternative, which is a new group advocating weatherization and other alternative techniques in the southern Maine area. John suggested that we could make some effort to coordinate with them. Seconded by Pierre Bouthiller and approved. Ginger cautioned that we had made a list of priorities at the last meeting that need to be considered before taking on other projects.

Earth Day 2011 was then discussed, which the Conservation Commission will participate in along with the Recycling Committee. John Weaver from that committee has taken the lead on this, and is inviting many organizations to participate. A Memorial Park cleanup will be part of the effort, and the Conservation Commission will have a display. John has a commitment from Saco Solar to also provide a display. Ginger will contact the SurfRiders organization and invite them to be there and perhaps help with the beach cleanup.

The date for the Earth Day observance will be Saturday, April 16, from 10 AM to 2 PM, with a rain date of April 17.

New Business:

Pierre made a motion that the Conservation Commission again support the creation of a Community garden in town. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to "support the concept of a community garden in a location suitable to support schools and the widest demographic of the citizens at large". The motion was unanimously approved.

John Bird brought up his concern that there are still some issues with the operation of the tide gate in Ocean Park. It was agreed that this could be taken up at the next meeting, perhaps with input from DPW.

Ginger McMullin, Chair
(Approved on 3/14/11)