

TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM
POLICE STATION CONFERENCE ROOM

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05 pm

Member Roll Call: Ginger McMullin, John Bird, Linda Jenkins, Patricia Holland, Mark Koenigs Absent: Pierre Bouthiller

ITEM 1. Approval of minutes

Reviewed the July 11, 2011 meeting minutes. Ms. Jenkins moved to accept, Ms. Holland seconded. Approved unanimously, 5-0.

ITEM 2. Subcommittee Reports: Memorial Park

Ms. Holland gave the Memorial Park subcommittee report. Submit photos of OOB to Sherry MacDonald for the fundraising calendar. Photos are due by the end of August by email. The flag ceremony continues to be held at 6pm every night in Memorial Park. The 72nd flag raising was held tonight.

Subcommittee Report on Alternate Energy. Mr. Koenigs gave a brief update on the status of windy study. The data collection for the one year study is complete and the anemometer tower has been taken down. The final report summarizing the collected data should be available soon. Mr. Koenigs will check with Jean Leclerc if he has the raw data and the final report available for the Conservation Commission to review and archive. The final report will be posted on the Town's website.

ITEM 3. Healthy Beaches Conference (John)

John Bird attended the Healthy Beaches Conference on July 15, 2011. He presented and shared handout materials from the conference. Best handout was, "Salt Marshes in the Gulf of Maine – Human Impacts, Habitat Restoration & Long-term Change Analysis." Presentations covered pollution being monitored, creatures being monitored and reviewed the governmental agencies that govern beaches.

ITEM 4. Report of meeting with Town Planner (Ginger)

Ms. McMullin met with the new Town Planner, Jeffrey Hinderliter. They reviewed the status of various Town DPW projects. The Town Planner was receptive to ConCom and would like to attend some of our meetings to get to know our commission. Ms. McMullin received the draft report on the Jordan Park Marsh – Invasive Plant Management Plan by Joe Anderson, York County Soil & W.C District for Town of Old Orchard Beach, July 2011 for review.

Mr. Bird gave an update on the Town meeting regarding the West Grand Project which included the overview of the strategy and goals of the project. The draft project plan includes treatment of an invasive plant species, phragmites australis, in the Jordan Marsh. The Jordan Marsh land area is owned by OPA and its membership. Wright-Pierce has not finalized their West Grand Project Plans. All agreed that control and removal of phragmites is very difficult and that it will be an ongoing maintenance item if the Town wants to remove it from Jordan Marsh and keep it out.

Mr. Koenigs to scan the Ocean Park drainage studies copied by Mr. Bird and then send them to the other ConCom members. They will also be saved on the ConCom flash drive.

ITEM 5. Signage and kiosk: Blueberry Plains and OOB Conservation Commission

Mr. Koenigs pasted out a one page summary of "Ideas for Blueberry Plains and Beyond" for review and discussion by the ConCom members. We read through the list together and discussed. Some action items in Item I. are already in progress.

The replacement gate on Ross Rd. is being designed, built and installed by DPW director, Bill Robertson.

Cady Koenigs is working on the new sign design which Mr. Koenigs showed to the members. It will be a while before the new sign is completed by Cady Koenigs as she has returned to College, but has taken the sign to paint it.

Kiosk design ideas, Ms .McMullin to research other locally installed kiosk designs. Talk to OPA and Saco Bay Trails about their kiosk designs.

ITEM 6. Blueberry Plains: Usage guidelines, trails, tie-in to ET

Survey of Properties, Mr. Koenigs to research the property deeds for both of the Blueberry Plains properties owned by the Town of Old Orchard Beach. Get background on their origin and terms of use by Town per the land donation. Start creating a list of abutters and neighbors from the tax maps.

Discussed gathering information regarding trails. John Andrews, Eastern Trails is one resource. Ms. Jenkins indicated the Patti Brodeur, Saco Bay Trails, would be a good resource and may be willing to come to one of our meetings to discuss trails. Mr. Bird moved to invite Ms. Brodeur to our next meeting; Mr. Koenigs seconded. Ms. Jenkins will contact her.

Ms. Jenkins mentioned that there is a short trail behind Jameson School that has some bridges. The trail was built by or with the help of the previous DPW director and volunteers.

ITEM 7. Other business

Mr. Bird gave an update on research meeting with Dan Blaney regarding documentation of wetlands in Old Orchard Beach. The OOB Comprehensive Plan has an inventory index of wetlands. Of note the document, "An Inventory of Wetlands in the Town of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, by Woodlot Alt., Inc. and wetland maps by Mitchell & Assoc., Nov. 1989. According to the inventory there was a stand of Black Gum (Tupelos) below Fort Hill which was noted in the report as significant.

Next meeting September 12, 2011 – 7:00 PM, location to be determined

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm

Mark Koenigs

Mark Koenigs, Secretary
(Approved on 9/12/11)