

TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012 at 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL IN TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm

Member Roll Call: Ginger McMullin, Patricia Holland, Mark Koenigs and John Bird;

Absent: Pierre Bouthiller, and Karen Brozek, new alternate member

Public/Guests: Jerome Begert

This official Town of OOB meeting of the Conservation Commission was televised live and recorded. A DVD of the recording is filed at the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall. A DVD copy is available for public review and can be loaned from the Town Clerk.

Secretary Note: Public is welcome to attend and participate in the Conservation Commission meetings at the pleasure of the Chair. People interested in volunteering to plan, fund raise, and construct recreational trails in OOB are encouraged to contact the Chair McMullin or Mark Koenigs.

ITEM 1. Review September 2012 minutes

Members reviewed the September 10, 2012 draft minutes. Chair moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Holland seconded. Minutes were accepted 4-0.

ITEM 2. Subcommittees Updates

a. Trail Subcommittee

Chair McMullin gave an update on the 2nd public hearing held at Town Hall and her follow-up site walk meeting with abutters on Wild Dunes Way near the Ross Road intersection. The meetings with the abutters have been productive. The attending abutters have voiced their concerns and we now have some solutions to their concerns. Along Wild Dunes Way near the golf cart path on the left side of the road heading towards Ross Road next to the last couple of houses, 6 Wild Dunes Way, a low retaining wall may be needed to fit the trail between the golf cart path and roadway. Along the School Street Extension sections near the Brook Drive the issue is people have been crossing through the abutter's property; the suggested plan is to add signage, and improve the vegetative buffering along the property lines with the property owners. The idea is to improve the trail and signage so that users will stay on the trail system and not go off the defined signed trail.

Mr. Bird asked if the connector trail would meet the standards of the Eastern Trail (ET). The Chair McMullin stated no, but that the crossing of the gas line at the ET right-of-way (R.O.W.) will need to meet required ET standards and require permitting. Mr. Bird asked if we had cost estimates for typical ET type bollards. No cost estimates or quotes yet. Chair

McMullin did comment that we will need to do fundraising for the trail amenities and some of the improvements. We will be working towards establishing a trail plan and a cost estimate for budgeting and fundraising.

b. Memorial Park

Ms. Holland gave an update on the Memorial Park Committee. They met with the 8 Heath Street property developer's engineer to establish the landscaping plan and drainage improvements to the park land next to the OOB voter approved easement. The site plan was reviewed by the OOB Planning Board on November 8, 2012 and they required that the developer's engineer meet with the Memorial Park Committee to get their agreement on the landscaping tree and vegetative plantings, and drainage details for the revised site plan submittal. Planning Board's next regular meeting is 12/13/12.

Mr. Bird asked Ms. Holland if the Memorial Park Committee was satisfied with the developer's site plan and landscaping plan. Ms. Holland stated they met with the developer's engineer and they agreed on their requirements, but that the developer's engineer did not present them a completed plan during their meeting. Memorial Park Committee chair will be contacted by Ms. Holland to ask her to contact the Town Planner for copies of the submitted developer revised plans. Hopefully the Memorial Park Committee chair, Mary Beth Robillard or a second will be able to attend the next Planning Board meeting to comment to any Planning Board questions or to affirm the revised site plan and landscaping on the Memorial Park land meets the Committee's approval.

Jerome Begert asked if the Memorial Park Committee's meeting minutes were available for the public's information and if they are posted on the Town's website. Copies of the meeting minutes are available at the Town Clerk's office. They are not currently posted, but we will request they be scanned and posted by the Town Clerk.

Mr. Bird asked if the Memorial Park Committee had completed documenting their annual regular maintenance plan to be used by the Department of Public Works (DPW) Director and others to manage the Memorial Park with some consistency. Ms. Holland stated that the Committee is still working on the maintenance plan. They spent their last monthly meeting covering the easement.

c. An update of the Wetland Survey by hired Consultant

Mr. Bird gave an update of the wetlands consultant's progress to date. They are in the field research phase of the survey project. The scientist from NewEarth Ecological Consulting is concerned about accessing private properties to conduct the field surveys to assess the wetlands.

The purpose of the wetland survey is to update the Town's existing survey that is referenced in the 1989 Comprehensive Plan, to provide the Town with current/updated information on wetlands in the town limits. Wetlands are important land resources that provide unique habitats for wildlife, help to slow down and store stormwater run-off, and provide natural filtration and cleaning of stormwater. There are upland, fresh water, brackish and saltwater wetlands.

The consultant has not made any submittals of preliminary deliverables to date and no bills have been submitted. They will submit a preliminary draft report in the spring. The deliverable of the final report is due by July 2013. It is a report that should be available in time to be added as an appendix and reference to the Comprehensive Plan 2013.

ITEM 3. Comprehensive Plan schedule update and discussion

Chair McMullin checked with Jeffrey Hinderliter, Town Planner, regarding the Comprehensive Plan Committee process and when natural, environmental and Town owned open space items would be covered. He expects they will cover the implementation section for these planning areas in the January or February, 2013, timeframe. We agreed that we should be prepared to attend the Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting when invited or when they are covering items that pertain to conservation, environment and open spaces.

We discussed posting Conservation Commission information and links on the Town's website in a .pdf file. We covered our list of open spaces/natural areas from memory. The list and maps are stored in the Conservation Commission file cabinet in the Town Council chambers.

Mr. Bird made the following suggestions: 1) the Town should consider creating open space in the Homewood Subdivision where there are many small lots that cannot be developed due to lack of sewerage or prohibitive costs to develop roads and sewerage. 2) the open land near Milliken Pond in the new Beachmont Subdivision should be accepted by the Town once the development is completed, and 3) drainage planning for the entire town should be reviewed to mitigate flooding on adjacent properties.

Mr. Begert suggested we also get other organizations with similar interests to attend the Comprehensive Plan Committee to provide their testimony and support for implementation ideas.

ITEM 4. "Check-in" and Discussion of plans for upcoming year

Chair McMullin asked members how they felt about the Conservation Commission meetings being televised and if going forward we wanted to have our meeting televised. The chair felt our meetings were more informal and that our discussions on various items may be affected by the cameras or knowing that the meeting is being televised.

Chair McMullin will try to arrange for the Forester to attend our January meeting to discuss general forestry areas and concerns that we, the OOB Con Com should be aware of and be working on. If time allows, we could review some specific example properties with which both the Forester and the members have familiarity.

Going forward we do need to actively attract and get a 2nd Alternate and may need a member if Mr. Bouthiller doesn't want to continue serving once his term expires on 12/31/12.

Mr. Bird brought up the on-going issue of local pollution problem in the Goosefare Brook water. There is human contamination leaking into the Goosefare Brook watershed. The OOB DPW has inspected the gravity sewer lines near the pump station and the tide gate area where the contamination has been detected in the surface waters. The sewer lines that have been inspected have been reported to all be in good shape and do not appear to have any breaks or

internal visible defects. Next month local authorities of OOB, Saco and responsible State agency(s) will be meeting to review the analytical test data that has been collected this year to determine the next course of action.

Mr. Bird also raised the item of flooding the marshes, and Chair McMullin raised the issue of fresh and salt water marsh management. The Walnut Street and Litter River watersheds are owned and managed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a fresh water system.

Education – Website posting on Town’s web page.

Mr. Begert pointed out that the OOB Conservation Commission jurisdiction also covers the portion of Saco Bay submerged lands that are now incorporated into the Town of OOB lands/waterways.

ITEM 5. Other business

Mr. Begert suggested that when the Conservation Commission started to talk about a topic on our agenda that the Chair provide the public a little background lead into the topic so that the viewing public who are not in the “know” would have a better understanding of what the Conservation Commissioners were talking about and why.

Mr. Begert also suggested that the Conservation Commission post on the Town’s website links to ecological and environmental agency websites that provide information about conservation and environmental issues that pertain or apply to OOB land, habitats, watersheds and ocean (Saco Bay) specifically.

Next meeting December 10, 2012 – 7:00 PM, OOB Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Mark Koenigs

Mark Koenigs, Secretary
(Approved on 12/10/12)