

TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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 (arrived at about 7:05pm). Absent: Pierre Bouthiller, and Karen Brozek, new alternate member

Public/Guests: None

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. Trails Subcommittee is meeting monthly to work on the OOB to ET Connector Trail. Trail Subcommittee meeting agendas and meeting times are posted on the Town website and notices made by Town Clerk's office.

ITEM 1. Acceptance of August minutes

Members reviewed the August minutes. Chair McMullin noted that on the last page under Wetlands discussion – Wood Lots Associates should be Wood Lot Alternatives. Chair moved to approved the minutes with noted corrections. Ms. Holland seconded. Minutes were accepted 3-0.

Chair presented the July meeting minutes for review and acceptance. Mr. Koenigs noted he did not attend the July meeting and therefore will abstain from voting. Acceptance of the meeting minutes should require a quorum of attending members.

Later in the meeting after John Bird had a chance to review the July meeting minutes, he moved to accept the July minutes with the corrections of changing Mr. Bells to Mr. Tom Ellis. Chair McMullin seconded the motion. The July minutes were accepted with noted correction by vote of 3-0-1 with Mr. Koenigs abstaining.

ITEM 2. Subcommittees Updates

a. Memorial Park

Discussion of the easement request proposal by the developer who is purchasing the AZ's Market property: Memorial Park subcommittee has not met recently since the special meetings back in June and early July to meet with Mr. Tom Ellis regarding his proposal requesting an easement of Memorial Park land adjacent to the AZ market property. The chair

of the subcommittee, Mary Beth Robillard, was asked via email by the developer, Mr. Tom Ellis, to accept his proposal for an easement per the conditions that were acceptable to the Memorial Park subcommittee members present at the last meeting or through emails. The subcommittee passed the developer's proposal on to the Town Council for their discussion with action.

Further discussion of the Memorial Park was made under other business during review and acceptance of the July meeting minutes. Currently, the Town Council has approved a three year lease for the easement to the developer for the sum of \$5,000 plus the landscaping improvements to the Memorial Park recommended by the subcommittee. The developer has subsequently requested that the Town Council take discussion and action to place the proposal for the easement on the November ballot for a referendum vote to make the easement permanent.

Chair noted to Ms. Holland to pass along to Mary Beth Robillard that going forward Memorial Park subcommittee shall submit its meeting agendas to the Town Clerk for advertisement a week before holding their meetings.

Ms. Holland and others commented on the lack of care and maintenance that is evidenced in the Memorial Park aesthetically from the previous year due to the fact there was no master gardener hired this year. The Subcommittee has been tasked with developing an annual task maintenance schedule so that the Town Manager, DPW Director and the Town Councilors can see the work that is needed to be done annual to keep the park landscapes and plantings healthy, vibrant and looking attractive and inviting to residents and visitors.

Ms. Holland covered her concerns regarding the use of pesticides and herbicides in the park and inadequate warning postings at all the entrances to the park and the areas where the chemicals are applied.

#### b. Trails

Chair McMullin gave an update of the Trails subcommittee meetings and planned next steps on the OOB to ET Connector Trail project. The subcommittee will be meeting on September 12 at Town Hall. Subcommittee members and interested abutters/citizens will be reviewing large scale maps of the proposed trail route to identify specific areas that are areas of concern and may require design details.

#### ITEM 3. Forestry discussion/workshop

Chair McMullin will continue working to set-up a time or meeting with a Forester to have a forestry discussion and workshop.

#### ITEM 4. Other business

Mr. Bird noted that Mr. Ladakakos, a representative of the OOB Community Garden, had inquired to whom the annual report should be submitted to this year. It should go to the Town

Clerk, and possibly a community garden member could present the report to the Conservation Commission under Other Business or to the Town Council under Good & Welfare.

Chair McMullin will be preparing and submitting the Conservation Commission's annual report to the Town in mid-September.

The Chair and Mr. Bird will arrange a meeting with the wetlands consultant working on the wetlands inventory project to have a kick off meeting.

Mr. Bird started the discussion of the invasive species, *Australius Phragmites*, commonly called phragmites as it relates to Ocean Park's Jordan Marsh and the latest Town Council workshop on 9/5/12 with the Town Engineer, Wright-Pierce Engineering, and the DPW Director, Bill Robertson.

Commission members continued discussion of wetland and other invasive species. Part of the Conservation Commissions mission is to educate the public and inventory the town's resources. The Commission shall collect and maintain historical environmental information and make it available to the Town for public discussion with action and to assist in forming sound scientific policy decisions with regard to our environment and natural habitats.

Conservation Commission discussed the tide gate in Ocean Park and the dog test results.

Next meeting October 8, 2012 – 7:00 PM, OOB Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

*Mark Koenigs*

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Mark Koenigs, Secretary  
(Approved on 11/27/12)