

# OOB CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for July 9, 2012

Present: John Bird, Pat Holland, Pierre Bouthiller, Ginger McMullin

Memorial Park Subcommittee: Dennis and Mary Beth Robillard, John Thibault, Charlene Lopresti, (Pat Holland)

Approval of June minutes tabled until next meeting

Pierre gave an update on volunteers that came to OOB from the Center for Cultural Exchange. On their first day, they cleaned the entire School St. extension proposed route for the OOB ET Trail Connector from School St. to Dirigo Road, and continued up Dirigo Road to the salt shed. Pierre provided wheelbarrows for them. On Day 2, they worked on the fence and pruning at the Community Garden and also moved compost. A few have offered to continue work with the garden or park. The Conservation Commission will be sending them our thanks, and the commission thanked Pierre for all of the time he spent with them. These are exchange students (college) that are working locally this summer.

Ginger gave a brief update on where things stand with the trail. Four possible subcommittee members have been identified and Ginger will arrange a meeting. Ginger met with Dom Pugliares, who owns the golf course. They walked the route through Dunegrass and he is willing to work with us on a few areas where it would be less invasive to cross golf course property than stay in the road right of way (e.g. where Wild Dunes Way meets Ross Road and there is stonework beside the road, and also near the maintenance shed where there is an existing row of white pines next to the road that will be kept). Ginger also needs to contact Dan Hourihan, who is leasing the golf course from Mr. Pugliares. So far, everything looks positive to continue with the trail. Bill Robertson has been understandably very busy during this season, but is still planning to work with us.

John gave an update on the wetlands RFP. Two companies submitted proposals and the work was awarded to New Earth Ecological Consulting. They are local (Saco) and will be starting work soon. The fact that we could give them a long time frame to work within helped them to meet our cost requirements.

We opened discussion for the major topic of the evening which is the easement requested by Mr. Tom Ellis for property along the edge of Memorial Park for the shopping center presently housing the IGA. Mr. Ellis has requested a recommendation from the Conservation Commission, and Ginger explained that our desire was to follow the recommendation of the Memorial Park Subcommittee.

There was discussion of the plan details, which were provided by Mr. Ellis. It was questioned why trucks had to be able to turn there and about the aesthetics of the existing white pines that would probably have to be removed. There was also concern about setting a precedent for such requests in the future. The economic benefits of improving the shopping center were also discussed. Poor drainage is already a problem on that side of the dog park. Grading, landscaping and the possibility of more salt and sand impact in the winter were all discussed. After looking and pros and cons, the subcommittee will discuss this amongst themselves and let the CC / Mr. Ellis know the outcome.

The Memorial Park subcommittee also has concerns about the park budget and its management. For instance, there was a specific amount raised for Illumination Night expenses, and Mary Beth still does not have an answer on if she can get money to purchase bags for luminaries.

The subcommittee has been very frustrated this year with the problems in getting the gardens properly tended, and with the hiring of a suitable groundsperson for plantings. They have been to the Town Council but do not feel they have been heard. Defining Lines is doing mowing, but watering is not being done sufficiently. Pat had concerns that there is insufficient signage to inform people when the grass has been treated, especially in the children's area. We reviewed the subcommittee's Mission Statement and list of duties that they desired for the seasonal position.

Ginger suggested that a detailed document be put together that lays out what the subcommittee feels needs to be done to properly maintain the park, such as plantings, weeding, watering, etc. and this could be brought to the town via the Conservation Commission for discussion for next year.

*Ginger McMullin, Chair*  
(Approved on 9/10/12)