

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TOWN HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
April 3, 2013 7PM**

**Memorial Park with the Veteran's Memorial Park Sub-Committee
Seasonal Business on the Beach.**

Memorial Park with the Veteran's Memorial Park Sub-Committee

Mary Beth Robillard opened by saying that since last year they didn't have enough money and the park suffered for that, the group wanted to present what it takes to get the job done. She presented the following:

COST OF WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO OPEN THE PARK TO JULY 2013

Mowing \$3,650.00

Defining Lines had done this past year; their contract is up on July 1. They will do the mowing for the same price this year into next year at \$380. He was the lowest quote from 3 quotes. The other two bids were \$520.00 per mow and \$580.00 per mow. Bill usually contacts them as to when he would like the mowing to begin.

The Chair suggested that Public Works try to negotiate a two or three year contract for better pricing. Bill Robertson agreed but said right now we just need to get this year done.

Lawn Fertilizer \$1,300.00

Tru Green-We do not have a contract with them but they have always done the park for us. They usually call Bill with a start date to begin with the fertilization.

Aerating Lawn \$600.00

Tru Green usually takes care of this and contacts us. There is no contract with them.

Seasonal Employee \$3,000.00

Council has approved for seasonal employees to be hired. We have someone in mind and they will be under Public Works/Park Committee at \$12.00 per hour to start anytime.

Tree Rings \$1,500.00

Seasonal employee will be responsible for handling the work.

Path edging/redressing/Petanque courts \$4,800.00

This is a stone dust type of product that is used for the walkways as well as the petanque court, neither of which was done last year and there are a lot of weeds that had grown up through the walkways and the grass has grown in along the edges. Public Works will be responsible for replacing this.

Playground Inspection - \$250.00-\$1500.00 for replacement costs

The playground is inspected each fall and the fee is \$250 for the inspection. If there is broken equipment that needs to be replaced a special company is used.

Vice Chair Bolduc asked if these could be done after the fiscal year. Mary Beth said this could.

Playground Chips \$2,700.00

The chips are made of a special softer product than regular bulk mulch. It has to be so many inches thick. During the fall inspection last year there are some areas that have to be expanded as it does not extend far enough out around where the swing set is. Bill will be ordering the chips; we may have some from last year left.

Bill said this could also go to July. The Chair said after this meeting that she would like the Committee to get together with the Director Of Public Works and establish what needs to be done this year and what can be pushed to next year. Councilor Quinn asked what would be for this year. Mary Beth said Mowing, Lawn Fertilizer, Aerating Lawn, Seasonal Employee, Tree Rings, Path edging/redressing/Petanque courts. Councilor Quinn asked if the \$3600 that was transferred in would cover this. Bill said no

Pruning (trees and rose bushes)-Town Arborist \$900.00

We have a town arborist who has maintained the trees. The large trees were done last year, all the rest of the trees will be done for \$900.00. *Bill said there are three cedar trees which people think are done but they might come back*

Annuals \$800.00+

We have had in the past Cascade Garden Center as well as the Rogers who had donated many of the plants to us. We no longer have those donations to count on as neither one of them are in business. Unfortunately, many plants were pulled mistaken for weeds so the cost may be a bit higher this year.

Irrigation \$500.00

Usually Biddeford/Saco Water turns on the water and the Irrigation Doctor will turn on the sprinkler system and check for any leaks or broken heads.

Fertilize Trees \$400.00

There is special equipment used to fertilize the trees which the seasonal employee will take care of. *Bill said this is the cost of the fertilizer only*

Transplanting Trees \$300.00-\$400.00

Depending upon damage each year, it is about 300-400 per tree. The trees were not maintained the way they should have been this past year and we may have lost a couple of trees and the willow tree we did lose during a storm.

Fencing (rails) \$150.00 per rail

We have 4 rails that are currently broken and Bill said there are 3 stored at Public Works. We have a volunteer to replace them.

Graffiti Removal \$130.00

The product that is used to remove graffiti from the granite costs approximately \$130.00. We do have some of that left at Public Works.

Flags \$1,200.00

The flags need to be replaced a couple of times a year. In the past they have been donated to us and sometimes we need to purchase them.

Bill talked to Russ and he thinks they are going to replace the 6 Arm Forces flags. Councilor Dayton asked if anyone checked all the Town flags. Vice Chair Bolduc said the American Legion always purchased the flags for the school department.

Tennis Court \$2,600.00

The tennis court is in very rough shape and needs to be resurfaced. If it cannot be done we will need to shut it down. Many people are playing tennis and basketball and we are hoping we can get some money to make these repairs. The lock is also broken.

Bill is going to have someone come out and look at it to get an evaluation. Vice Chair Bolduc suggested he work with Jason Webber from the Recreation Dept. There was

suggestion to make another tennis court a temporary dog park but no one thought that would be a good idea.

Basketball Court \$2,500.00

The basketball court is not in terrible shape but needs to be resurfaced and lined. The nets need to be replaced and usually purchase a couple of sets.

Dog Park ?

The dog park needs to be shut down for a month so we can reseed it. We are putting up notices and will give people plenty of notice. The lock is broken on the gate.

Bill said the property above it drains into the land. Bill said they could come into and take dirt away and put in stone and make a drain. Vice Chair Bolduc asked if the Committee had seen any of the \$5000 that was to be earmarked per the easement. They said no. John Bird said he thought it was more than \$5000. Mary Beth said the developers were to put a French drain in. The Chair asked Bill to check with the developers and asked Mary Beth to get with Diana to see where the \$5000 is. Councilor Dayton cautioned about the flooding there. Councilor Furtado asked what the long term plan is. Bill explained to them the process of doing the work and said it would be about \$1,600 for two men and could be done in a week. He said it would most likely need to be done every 5 years due to dogs urinating there. Councilor Furtado asked if there was other products they could use but Pat said the other stuff is very expensive and other products are not good for the dogs.

Mary Beth talked about Clean Up Day on April 20th. They are going to incorporate a plant sale into that day. Folks can bring plants, take some and make donations. They are hoping to make Illumination Night bigger this year.

Councilor Furtado thanked Mary Beth for all the work done on the presentation.

Pat presented a video of what the area looked like before it was turned into a park and showed a little bit of history.

Mary Beth said they will have a flag raising starting Memorial Day (actually Illumination Night) thru Labor Day at 6PM. Anybody can give us a call who has a service person they would like honored.

Councilor Mailhot thanked them for the presentation and all the work they have done.

Volunteers can get in touch with the Town Clerk or Mary Beth to volunteer. There is also a program where folks can buy a tree for \$1000 and also a park bench.

The friends of the Whaler have raised \$900 of their \$1000 goal for the Roger White Memorial chestnut tree right outside of the library.

Mary Beth clarified per Councilor Quinn's question that anyone can have a tree in their name. It does not have to be a service person like the flag raising does.

Seasonal Business on the Beach.

The Chair said this came up at a Town Council meeting about a month ago and it was suggested that they have a workshop.

Rafi Jacobi wants to have access to the beach to rent umbrellas and beach chairs. He said it would make it more pleasant for our visitors. He said all the colors would be the same and there could be a message on the umbrellas like “Thank you for not smoking”. He said he had offered the Town \$10,000 but that was not meant to be a bribe, it was simply like what others might pay for using the sidewalks.

The Chair assured him that they hadn’t taken it as a bribe. Mr. Jacobi said he wanted Councilor Quinn to know he was not trying to set up a monopoly. And he also addressed Councilor Coleman’s concern about how much space it would take up. He said if the Council was favorable he would get with the Town Planner and go down to the beach to plot out how much space it would actually take. He said the concerns about the hotels having chairs in front of them are unfounded as it is a public beach.

Vice Chair Bolduc said that even though it has the aspects of being a successful business, it opens up a can of worms. She said it would be better if he opened a business that was not on town property. The beach is sacred ground, our tourist attraction. It is fine for Aruba but not Old Orchard Beach. She said she couldn’t support it.

Mr. Jacobi doesn’t see it as taking space.

Councilor Coleman agreed with Vice Chair Bolduc. He said the minimum space it would take would be 7500 square feet. He said renting that size area in a building near the beach would be well over the poultry \$10,000 that was offered. He thinks that was an insult. He has gotten more negative emails on this than he has gotten on any other items. He has no problem with him taking a store front. But not the beach; that is public land. There is no way he can conceive of supporting this.

Vice Chair Bolduc said the Charter says they can not sell or lease public property without the vote of the people. Councilor Coleman said they could on a short term basis. Bolduc noted that Mr. Jacobi wanted a 10 year lease.

Mr. Jacobi said that that he was assuming every year he would have to renew his business license. He said he had 100 of emails supporting it. (Councilor Coleman interjected that he would like to see those).

Councilor Furtado agreed it was a great idea but he could not support it out of respect for the business and people paying the high taxes of being on the oceanfront. He also suggested a storefront. It also thinks it would start precedents.

Councilor Coleman said he does see any support for this and suggested the workshop be closed. The Chair said she would like all councilors a chance to respond.

Councilor Mailhot complimented Mr. Jacobi on his creativity but she does not see leasing beach property as an option for our hometown beach.

Councilor Quinn also complimented the idea but agreed that it would be opening the door for others and he doesn't want the commercialization of our beach. He has had limited feedback but it has been negative.

Councilor Dayton said the beach belongs to everyone and it is not for sale. She doesn't support it.

Bud Harmon said he doesn't know Mr. Jacobi. He said the Chamber discussed it and there wasn't one positive thing that they came up with. He said our draw is the beach. He said they don't want to open up that door. His hotel gives out chairs. Competing with the hotels and stores is unfair. He thinks there would be an issue with cleaning the beach. The Public Works Department does a great job.

The Chair suggested Mr. Jacobi keep in touch with the Chamber and also check areas for rent. She also thanked him for the two businesses he has already in town.

Mr. Harman said that there are two businesses who rent items like that.

Mr. Cloutier, who owns beachfront property, said he would not want it in front of his hotel. Cliff Kenny said he likes all the different colors of the umbrellas on the beach. He agrees that is would be a great idea for a storefront.

The meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

**Sheila M. Flathers
Interim Town Council Secretary**

**I, Sheila M. Flathers, Interim Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of five (5) pages is a copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop of April 3, 2013.
Sheila M. Flathers**

