

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 @ 4:30 PM
Town Offices and by Zoom

I. Call to Order: Ann Judd called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Voting Members Present: Francine Mayhew, Co-President; Kristin Hutchins, Secretary; Ellen Scull; and by Zoom: Eleanor Park. **Excused:** Kathleen Slack; Kathi Lindquist; Ann Ratcliff, Co-President

Associate Members Present: Valerie Bodner; Kathryn Strand; Terry Powers and Ann Judd, Acting Treasurer **Excused:** Dick Dimond **Absent:** Jim Geary

Guests: Jay Morgan. Tasha Johnson, ex-Officio Officer, joined the meeting at 4:50 PM

II. Agenda, Approval / Modifications: Kristin moved, Eleanor seconded, to approve the agenda without modifications. Passed. 4-0-0.

Ann asked the Board to agree on the summer schedule. Kristin moved, Ellen seconded, to forego the July meeting. Passed, 4-0-0. The Tree Fund Appeal will go out in August and will be executed during the regular August meeting.

III. Public Comment: May be made in person at the meeting or submitted, prior, to: townclerk@southwestharbor.org. None.

IV. Approval of Minutes: 24.5.1 Tabled.

V. Treasurer's Report: None. For the next meeting, Louise will have prepared the second quarter financials report.

VI. New Business:

- A. Ann Judd has met with Elliott Paine, Carole Plenty and Ann Ratcliff to discuss long term and supervisory planning to replace herself in the leadership work for the Conservation Commission and the operations of Charlotte Rhoades Park. Areas of administration, include fundraising/finances, horticultural oversight, and Charlotte Rhoades Park management work she has been doing for the last 25 plus years. **Two suggestions were made from this meeting:** 1) **research** donor management software and 2) **develop** an administrative job description.
- B. Charlotte Rhoades Park: Steve Joyal (Tremont resident) **is the day to day manager this season.**

Ann asked the Conservation Commission to make two policies for:

- 1) Plaques. Anne does not want too many plaques in the Park. There will be a plaque acknowledging the newly donated sculpture but that will be the exception. Ann suggested a no plaques policy. Kathryn offered to share the Land and Garden Preserve policy on gift acceptance. Kathryn and Ann will draft a policy for the Conservation Commission to review.
- 2) Previous iterations of the SWH Select Board have indicated they do not want alcohol consumed in the Park. Ann gets requests for parties wanting to consume alcohol at their gatherings. Remembering the Park is a public space and alcohol should not be allowed in a public setting, Ann suggested we limit alcohol consumption to a champagne toast after a ceremony. The policy should generally prohibit any alcohol consumption beyond a toast at the end of a ceremony. The indenture for the receipt of the property from Charlotte Rhoades, indicates the Park should be maintained as a quiet and peaceful space. Ellen moved, Kristin seconded that there should be no alcohol consumption beyond a champagne or such toast after a ceremony. Passed, 4-0-0.

The Butterfly Release is scheduled for Thursday, July 25 from 1:00 – 4:00PM. There will be two release sessions. Mark your calendars to be available to help!

The Park will also host its annual open house, on Friday, June 28 from 1 – 3 PM. Featured speaker, **Martina Dittmar** will **give a presentation on pollinators, followed by a Monarch butterfly tagging demonstration.**

VII. Old Business:

- A. Tree Warden: Eleanor had no report. Ann said she had been talking with Ann R. Suggested places where public trees might be welcome: 1) Joey Feliciano's property at 234 Main St., John and Ingrid Kachmar's properties at: 246 and 260 Main St., and Clark Point Catering at 54 Clark Point Rd. The Conservation Commission has no formal policy for supporting plantings on private lands. Plantings are addressed on a case by case basis and usually require the property owner to put up 50% of the cost of planting. Ex-officio offer Tasha Johnson asked that the Conservation Commission consider not obstructing the worn path on Main St. when planting trees. Ann said that in any case, the plantings would already be placed to avoid obstructing power lines either by their placement or mature height. Tasha further asked the Conservation Commission to take a look at a tree located outside the Town Office that appeared to be in poor condition.

Valerie has taken it upon herself to rehabilitate a linden, **originally planted by the Tree Fund and located near McEachern and Hutchins, that was nearly destroyed by a vehicle hitting it two years ago.** She says it is starting to look much better. Please take a look. Thank you, Valerie!

- B. Veterans' Park; Frost Farms did a nice job with the plantings which were ready for the Memorial Day ceremonies. Ellen and Ann J will look and see whether there are any deficiencies to be further addressed.

B. Chris's Pond Update: Terry reported that the Park looked good this week. She saw some native blue flag irises in bloom. And there are some ducks as well.

Valerie said the channelized flows she has been monitoring indicate the Pond is likely to be designated as a stream. She sees 'mineralized bottoms, a second of the five indicators for designation as a stream. A third indicator she has observed is macro-invertebrates and she passed around a show-and-tell that included: an aquatic sow bug, a damsel fly and other young larvae.

The sixth grade class will finish it's project this fall and make a presentation to the Select Board. Their teacher, Bonnie Norwood wants them to see the Pond in a cycle of one full year. When they reach the 8th grade they will mentor the sixth grade class in the monitoring and study of Chris's Pond.

Valerie will perform a chemical analysis of the Pond in the fall.

VIII. Adjournment and Schedule Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 @ 4:30 pm

Kristin moved, Francine seconded to hold the next regular meeting at the regularly scheduled date in August, August 7 at 4:30 PM. Passed, 4-0-0.

Kristin moved, Ellen seconded to adjourn the meeting. Passed, 4-0-0.

THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM THAT IS LISTED ON THIS AGENDA. *Public comment, limited to 3 minutes per speaker, is an opportunity for the Commission to listen to concerns and receive information from the public. The Commission will not engage in dialogue but will investigate as appropriate. Speakers and Commission members should be always respectful and professional.*