

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 6th, 2023

I In attendance: Francine Mayhew (Presiding), Dick Dimond, Kristin Hutchins, Kathleen Slack, Valerie Bodner, Ann Judd; Zoom: Ellen Scull, Ann Ratcliff, Elena Scotti, Jane Ayres, Terry Powers. Guests: Misha Mytar, Amy Williams. Excused: Eleanor Park, Jim Geary. Absent: Jeff Dutra.

Francine moved and Kathleen seconded to adopt the agenda; all in favor. No member present had a conflict of interest with the agenda. Jane moved and Kathleen seconded to accept the minutes of May 2nd; all in favor.

II **Treasurer Report** Jane moved and Kathleen seconded to transfer up to \$15,000 from the savings account to the **Charlotte Rhoades Park SWHCC Endowment Fund** at the Maine Community Foundation, and have the Maine Community Foundation transfer \$15,000 from that fund to the Town of Southwest Harbor Charlotte Rhoades Park Reserve for docent labor. All in favor.

The Commission and Town Office receive quarterly reports from MCF. Jane will contact MCF about an in-depth report of our Fund for the Commission to review.

Tree Warden Update The Board of Selectmen will make Tree Warden appointments at their June 13th meeting. The Tree Fund Appeal will be prepared for the August 1st meeting.

Rhoades Park Update Ann Judd reported that the gardens were being planted and reminded everyone about the June 30th Open House from 1-330pm. The Butterfly Release Benefit is July 27th from 130pm-430pm with two sessions. The Barn has been repainted and repairs to the fence on the south side of the property are pending.

Veterans Park Update Ellen reported that she and Ann J had met at the Vet Park to look over the plantings. Although the new trees planted last year are doing well, many of the current shrubs look worn out and in need of replacement. Ellen will start by suggesting some plantings in certain sections of the park and installation can be planned for later in the summer or early fall. Ann R moved and Ellen seconded that up to \$1000.00 of Beautification money could be spent if enough was raised over the summer. Ann J also mentioned that a town wide appeal is still planned for November to help raise the needed funds for the renovation. Ann has asked for a landscaping grant of \$4,000.00 from the Garden Club of Mt. Desert for this project and will hear back about the request in August.

By-Laws Update Valerie spoke about a minor revision to the Commission By-Laws that would allow Francine as Chair to designate another member to speak on behalf of the Chair at a Select Board meeting or any other committee meeting when needed. This revision was tabled

until the next meeting in August. (The Secretary forgot to bring in by-laws document with the revision language.)

III **Chris' Pond Park Discussion** The Commission discussed several aspects of the Chris' Pond Park to address summer stewardship and prepare for a meeting with the Select Board in August.

General Stewardship Ann J will have a sign made for visitors that will mention day use only, pet policy, leave no trace, no alcohol, no fires. Ann will make a schedule for Commission members to monitor the Pond weekly and collect trash if needed. She will get a security camera up; there is an extra at the Butterfly Garden that can be used.

Engineering Ann R will check the pond wall for stability this summer.

Tree Work Eleanor and Ann will be in touch with arborist Billy Guest re limbing and clearing.

Grant Review Elena will work with Carolyn Ball and Misha Mytar on the draft grant.

Pond Work Valerie suggested that a suite of analysis of the pond water be done to determine the environmental health of the pond. This includes study of temperature, PH, nutrients and dissolved oxygen. Invasive aquatic plants may need to be pulled and we will need volunteers to help with this. Ann R. suggested that Billy Helprin might be contacted to assess the state of the pond and make recommendations to us and also identify the wildlife situated there. The Commission should consider including students from Pemetic, MDI High School or COA to do an environmental study this next year.

Volunteering Resources It will be important to identify volunteer resources to assist with upcoming projects. Jane will contact Billy Helprin, and we need a volunteer liaison from the skater's group; Kathy Van Gorder was suggested as a person who could organize helpers from that group.

Communications Ann J will ask Jenn LeHaye at the Town Office if we can post information about the Pond on the Town's website. We do have an email for the CPP (Chris' Pond Park) which is: **chrispondswh@gmail.com**

Next Meeting: August 1st, Tuesday, at 430pm, Town Office