

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission

Minutes

April 30, 2020

ZOOM meeting attendees

Commissioners:

Francine Mayhew, Eleanor Park, Jane Ayres, Ellen Scull, Susan Allen, Ann Ratcliff, Terry Powers;

Secretary: Ann Judd; Guest: Hannah Crane: Kristin Hutchins – Select Board liaison

Minutes of November 2020 meeting were approved

I Treasurer's report

Jane reported that money in the savings account is a combination of unspent project funds and endowment funds not yet transferred to the Maine Community Foundation. She will move money into the checking account as needed for spring and summer bills.

II Tree Business

Eleanor reported that Kris Harper has not yet removed the old Elm tree at the driveway entrance to Pemetic School. It is hoped that the tree will be removed in May. Ann R. reported on emergency tree work that took place on the Clark Point road recently involving aging downed street trees, power lines and electrical fires. Eleanor and Ann R. will look at the tree inventory with respect to aging trees that could prove hazardous on our town streets and develop a strategy to work with the Town to handle these kinds of incidents.

Ann Judd has a flyer put out by Bartlett Tree Experts called "How to Kill a Tree". She will try to get copies of this that could be good information for SWH residents

III Rhoades Park

Ann J. reported that the Charlotte Rhoades Park has remained closed in April and will remain closed for the month of May. It is hoped that the Park will be able to open with limited visitation in June. Ann will draft guidelines for visitors, employees, and volunteers to keep the Park safe for all during the summer season and present the recommendations at our next meeting in May. As examples, benches and picnic tables will need to be removed, and the restroom won't be available.

The Commission decided to cancel the July fundraising benefit. It was suggested that we all try to come up with some substitute activities for the Butterfly Release and present them at the next meeting.

The Park received the gift of a smart TV from the Garden Club of Mount Desert. It is hoped that a new 30 minute educational film called the Mystical Migration of the Monarchs (maybe next year) be available to visitors/school groups to watch.

New swings had been ordered from a playground company and were scheduled to be installed this spring. The Park has so much ledge that the holes for the footings could not be deep enough, so the order was cancelled. We will need to research a design that will work; the swings are postponed until next year.

Next ZOOM meeting: Tentatively scheduled for May 28th, Thursday, at 330pm