

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2019

In Attendance: Francine Mayhew, Ellen Scull, Eleanor Park, Susan Allen, Jane Ayres, Ann Judd
Excused: Ann Ratcliff

Minutes of the November 29, 2018 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jane reported that there was \$6,667.19 in the Tree Fund, \$33,243.00 in the Beautification Fund. The Rhoades Construction checking account stands at \$75,000 and there is \$55,000 remaining in the project savings account. The MCF account value is \$135,000 for the Rhoades Endowment. There is still money left over from the Rhoades House that will be transferred for future Park Barn expenses.

Tree Business

Eleanor will be in touch with Kris Harper about finishing the tree work discussed last fall. Susan has been in touch with the Pemetic principal regarding the planting of a new street tree. To replace the elm that was taken down in February 2018.

Charlotte Rhoades Park updates and summer events

There are still many upcoming expenses for the project at the Charlotte Rhoades: finishing of site work, curb cut, new driveway, additional tree and shrub planting, barn painting, irrigation updates and improvements, and plumbing in the barn and well pump hook up. Unfortunately, the weather has hindered any work at the Park because of the exceptionally cold spring weather. The frost is still in the ground, so it will delay the project for another 3-4 weeks.

Francine M. and David Scull have generously offered to purchase new picnic tables and garden benches for the Park. Andy, who works at MeEachern and Hutchins, will build new picnic tables and 3 bench kits were purchased for new benches. Ann expressed gratitude and thanks to Francine and David for this wonderful gift.

The goal is to have the park renovations completed or near completion by mid-June. A wedding will be held June 15th as a first private summer event. There will be an **"Open House"** for the public to come and visit the Park on **June 28th, Friday, from 2:00 - 4:30pm**, followed by an invitation only private thank you reception for our major donors **June 28th from 5:30 – 7:00pm** at the **Judd house on 26 Fernald Point Road. Conservation Commission members will be hosts for the event.**

The annual Butterfly Release will be held on Thursday July 25th, at 330pm. The ticket price has been raised \$5 to \$35 per adult.

Deer Population Control Task Force

Ann reported that the Bar Harbor Conservation Commission formed a task force some years ago (2014) to try to educate that Town with a summary report prior to a vote that would allow the Town to act on reducing the deer population. The article did not pass, but the Commission also realized that if the deer population was to be successfully controlled, all of the MDI towns would need to act together. Ann distributed the Bar Harbor 2014 Summary to the Commission members to read. More discussion on this to come.

Next Meeting: May 2019