

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Minutes of May 23, 2019 meeting

In attendance: Francine Mayhew, Ellen Scull, Eleanor Park, Jane Ayres, Ann Ratcliff, Ann Judd,
Guests: Elena Scotti (for Terry Powers; Absent: Susan Allen

Minutes of the April 10, 2019 meeting were approved

Tree Business: Eleanor reported that the work on the Town's trees was completed by K M Harper. The amount for the work exceeded the amount approved by Commission last fall. A motion was made to approve expenditure for the difference, which was \$400. Eleanor reported that Harper had mentioned that the remaining old Elm tree next to the school driveway in front of Main Street will need to be removed. We will renew the conversation with the school about a location for a memorial tree for Ian Marshall, because the layout of the parking may change if both of the elms are no longer in place. The Tree Fund Appeal will be a mailing that will take place in August, as in previous years.

Treasurers Report: Other than paying the bill for the tree work, Jane reported that she has not gotten any Rhoades Construction bills for a few months. The final landscaping work at the Park has just commenced, so there will be site work, landscaping, irrigation, new shrubs, trees and sod, new sign and kiosk, and other miscellaneous invoices coming within the month. The construction account will be closed once all the bills are in and the project is completed. Any leftover money will be deposited in the Maine Community Foundation endowment account.

Rhoades Park: Ann reported that the "Open House" for SWH residents will take place on June 28th from 2-430p and Commission members are invited to come, and also are invited to the private reception for significant donors on the same day from 5:30-7p at the Judd house. The Butterfly Release is on July 25th at 3:30pm. Benches donated by Francine Mayhew and David Scull have been delivered to the Park, and the picnic tables also donated by Francine and David will be delivered in June. Milkweed seeds have been available (for a requested donation) through the website since the beginning of the year. Summer Monarch docent Marie LaRossee will be running the Monarch rearing and tagging program this summer with help from Ann, and docents Martina Dittmar and Hannah Crane.

Deer on MDI – Commission members discussed ways to bring together a committee that could shape a policy to tackle the deer problem on MDI. As a public safety issue both for traffic accidents and potential health issues, Ann will have a conversation with the Town Manager to engage the Town in this matter. Other players might include Acadia National Park, the League of Towns, MDI Hospital, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Friends of Acadia, Hancock County Cooperative Extension, MDI schools, and College of the Atlantic. The Commission will refocus on this in the fall, hopefully with some support from the Town.

Next meeting: to be determined