

SW Harbor Conservation Commission
Minutes of meeting April 10, 2018

Present: Francine Mayhew, Jane Ayres, Ellen Scull, Ann Ratcliff, Ann Judd, Eleanor Park
Absent: Susan Allen

Minutes of October, 2017 meeting were approved

Tree Business – The large but ailing elm tree on Main Street by the driveway entrance to Pemetic school was removed over the winter. Pemetic contributed \$1,000 toward the cost of the removal, and the Tree Fund money paid the remaining balance. Ann R. will approach the school principal or write a letter to the principal to suggest a new tree planting. Ann and/or Eleanor will also talk to the Bar Harbor Bank about tree planting possibilities on Main Street in front of the bank. All agreed that this is the right time to promote a downtown canopy of street trees in that area.

Rhoades Park – The Park will start its volunteer days the week of April 23rd. A request has been made to the Coast Guard to help do spring clean-up for Earth Day, April 22nd so that the Guard will come either the week before or one of the days after 4/22. The season schedule will include weekly Thursday volunteer days, with hands-on informal gardening classes in May; the Annual Butterfly Release date has been set for July 26th at 330pm.

Rhoades Renovation Project – Most of the money for the construction project is now in hand with the exception of the Town's warrant article of \$25,000 which was recommended by both the Warrant Committee and the Selectmen for a positive vote at the Town Meeting on May 7th. It is crucial that the warrant be approved because an additional \$10,000 in a grant approval will be awarded to us if the Town gives \$25,000 to the project. Ann J. will prepare some talking points for Commissioners attending the meeting (if someone asks a question). Fundraising for the project will continue this summer with one more push to try and raise the endowment goal. Some sort of drawing or rendering of the new park plan will be put on an information sign near the donation box so that donations can be made by visitors over the summer.

Pole Banner from the Chamber of Commerce; Other promotions – The Commission approved the creation (and purchase if required) of a Rhoades Park pole banner to be put up by the Chamber of Commerce on a downtown telephone pole as well as a second banner to be mounted on the pole across from the Park. Ann J. will follow up with the Chamber on this. Jane also suggested we advertise in the Quightside Trail Map; the Chamber will be contacted for more information on that too.

Financial Funds update – Jane reported that our fund balances for Tree and Beautification are very similar to last year at this time. We are in good shape financially.

Next meeting date: TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Judd, Secretary

