

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Minutes of meeting November 29th, 2018

Present at Town Office: Ann Judd, Jane Ayres, Ellen Scull, Francine Mayhew

Present by phone: Ann Ratcliff, Eleanor Park, Susan Allen

Absent: Terry Powers

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved for October 17th 2018 meeting and November 7th, 2018 meeting.

Results of voting on Plastic Bag and Styrofoam Container Ordinances: Both ordinances were approved by the Southwest Harbor voters in November 2018.

Rhoades Construction Project update: Ann reported that in spite of the precipitation and cold weather in November, the project has been on time and on budget. Various building expenses in the amount of \$61,654 were detailed including costs for fencing, well, electrical, barn construction, trees and landscaping. Additionally, a bill for the park site work was presented from the Town Treasurer for \$38,000.00. Treasurer Jane Ayres has paid all invoices of the \$61,000 + and the Town appropriation will cover all but \$500 of the \$38,000. These bills represent about 60% of the project cost.

Charlotte Rhoades Park Budget: the 2019-2020 budget was presented and approved and will be sent on to the Town Manager and Warrant Committee. The Water/Sewer costs are projected to be less than previous years because of the new well. A one-time expense for a new road sign and new information sign was added; both had to be replaced because of age and poor condition.

Membership: Ann has communicated with Terry who has taken a job in Florida but would like to remain on the Commission as an Associate member. Ellen Scull will speak to Will Hoar to ask him to visit the Town Office to fill out a volunteer form; he can then be appointed to the Conservation Commission as a Voting Member.

Tree Business: The Town Christmas tree was installed in the Veterans Park this week and is a gift to the Town from Victor Stanley and Howard Monroe.

Action Item: Eleanor and Ellen will get in touch with Town Arborist Kris Harper for an update on the work list scheduled and/or completed for this season.

Other Business: Ann suggested that the Conservation Commission could initiate and take a role in talks with other town groups from Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor, and Tremont to discuss deer population control and Lime Disease. Residents of Mount Desert Island have acknowledged for some time that this is a growing island-wide problem, and we and the other towns need to educate ourselves and work to come to some consensus on how to deal with the problem. A goal would be to get this started in 2019.