

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2022

Attending on Zoom: Jim Geary, Chair; Jane Ayres, Treasurer; Ann Judd, Secretary; Kristin Hutchins; Ann Ratcliff; Francine Mayhew; Kathleen Slack; Eleanor Park, Tree Warden. Ellen Scull; Valerie Bodner; Elena Scotti.
Absent: Jeff Dutra, Tree Warden; Susan Allen.

Guests: Misha Mytar, Maine Coast Heritage Trust; George Jellison; Carolyn Ball; Aimee Williams, Alan Rosenquist, Cora Olgyay.

Jane Ayres moved to accept Minutes of January 4th, Francine seconded, All in favor: unanimous.

Chris' Pond Jim reported on the public hearing January 31st that was very well attended. He felt that there were many constructive comments and questions. Jim met with both the SWH Code Enforcement Officer and the agent from the Maine DEP and was assured that there were no obstacles the possibility of creating workforce housing on the Letcher property. The project will be presented to the Selectmen at their meeting on Tuesday, March 8th. In preparation, the Commission will have the FAQ sheet and agreed upon site plan for the meeting showing what portion of the adjacent properties will be included for the matching grant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Island Housing Trust will also make a presentation to the Board at that time. Notice of the Selectmen's meeting will be posted in the school newsletters and notice boards, at Harbor House and at the Pond. The Commission will be looking for approval from all involved of the proposed gift of land, and support from the Select Board to move forward with the grant.

Tree Business Jim and Eleanor reported that at the Selectmen's meeting George Jellison said that he was going to speak with Nathan Carroll regarding the Maple Lane dead tree that needs immediate removal. Mr. Jellison reported to the Commission that he had indeed spoken with Mr. Carroll, but Mr. Carroll had not received any letters that had been sent to him, including the Certified letter. The Commission will look to partnering with the Town, the school, Mr. Carroll, and the Tree Fund to come up with funds to remove the tree. The tree still presents a hazard, and everyone should be working hard to find a resolution as soon as possible. It was also reported that the 2022-2023 Tree Budget presented to the Select Board was approved.

Treasurer's Report Jane reported on the balances and income for the Tree Fund, Beautification Fund and Conservation Commission budget. The budget requests for the Conservation Commission and Charlotte Rhoades Park were approved by the Selectmen at their January 11th meeting. A budget for the Veterans Park deferred maintenance was approved in the amount of \$4000.00

Charlotte Rhoades Park Ann J. reported that the Park website reconstruction was on schedule, about halfway done. The January solicitation yielded 25% return of those solicited who had been previous donors. A pruning Class is scheduled for April. Volunteer days will start up by April 21st.

Future Fundraising Commission members discussed ways to solicit funds for the Chris' Pond and the Veterans Park, which may need greater support than just the Town budget in the coming years. Discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

View Overlook on Main Street and **Winter Beautification** will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next meeting date: March 1, 2002