

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission Minutes  
September 17, 2020 Meeting – Zoom

In attendance: Jane Ayres, Susan Reiff-Allen, Ann Ratcliff, Francine Mayhew, Eleanor Park, Ellen Scull, Ann Judd, and guest Misha Mytar – Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

The minutes of the August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting were approved.

**Chris' Pond Update** – Misha reported that the abutting property to the pond was under a purchase option for 6 months with MCHT, assignable to the Town. The option can be extended for a second 6 month period that would end in August 2021. This can hopefully “buy” time for the Town/MCHT to do a survey/title search/concept plan and budget. The Conservation Commission can help by finding partners (examples: Island Housing Trust, Pemetic parents) to serve on an advisory committee that can look for ways and means for the Town to acquire the property through grants and other fundraising. Jane offered to serve on the Committee and will seek to find someone to represent Pemetic school or Harbor House. Meanwhile, funds will be needed to do a survey and concept plan, most likely a minimum of \$5,000. Misha will talk to the Town Manager. At this stage the Select Board is not opposed to the acquisition, but want to find a way to pay for it outside of taxation.

**Tree Business –**

Pemetic School Tree Planting Project – Ann Ratcliff met with the Pemetic School Board to ask for assistance with the planting project and the Board voted to approve the plan using maple trees. Ann will meet with the Principal and Custodian to discuss the plan and will get bids from local landscape contractors. The Tree Fund budget does have some money available for planting and hopefully the School will provide funding as well. Ann Judd is working on getting a quote for irrigation.

Tree Fund Appeal – Ann J. and Jane processed the Tree Fund appeal and got about 400 letters out to individuals and businesses.

Tree Inspection – Eleanor and Ann R. did the tree inspection on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Notes of the inspection will be attached to the minutes indicating work that needs to be done on some downtown trees. The Commission voted to expend a total of \$4,000.00 on tree work with KM Harper.

Treasurer's Update and Budget Planning for 2021 – Ann and Jane will be reviewing expenses and will have a more complete report at the next meeting. Ann J. is working on plans for new swings at the Charlotte Rhoades Park at a cost of approximately \$2,500.00

**Library request to use Charlotte Rhoades Park** – Susan Plimpton from the SWH library asked if the Rhoades Park could be used for a lantern stroll in November. The consensus of the Commission was that this should be allowed. Jane offered to coordinate with the Library. The Library also inquired about a burning of greens in December and consensus of the Commission was that any open fires or even candles would not be advisable.

**Next Meeting: October 15, 2020 Place/or Zoom to be determined**

## Tree Inspection

September 1, 2020

Attendance: Kris Harper, Ann Ratcliff, and Eleanor Park

- Harbor House: Kris advised that the maple tree should be taken down- hazardous and beyond saving. The Ash tree located next to it is very healthy but needs pruning, specifically power line and road clearance.  
**Action:** Assessment of tree by the DOT will happen by Sept. 30. This will determine if they can prune limbs hanging over the road. Power company needs to be contacted to assess pruning near lines. Find out who is responsible of trees- town or Harbor House.
- Veteran's Park: Elm tree closest to the First Bank requires pruning. Additional irrigation is needed behind the veteran's wall.  
**Action:** Steve at the Southwest Harbor Water Department has been informed, will keep posted.
- Pemetic: Zelkova Elm in little kids playground have dead limbs that need pruning. Elm trees by each playground need limbing up on the bottom and removal of dead branches.  
**Action:** Pemetic maintenance crew will prune Zelkova Elm. Estimate from Kris Harper is required for other Elm tree pruning.