

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Minutes of August 13th, 2020 meeting

In attendance (zoom meeting): Francine Mayhew, Kristin Hutchins, Jane Ayres, Ann Ratcliff, Eleanor Park, Ann Judd

Minutes of the June 2020 meeting were approved.

July Beautification Appeal by letter

Response to the appeal letter has been heartening. Our goal is to try to receive enough support to cover expenses for one summer, and from what has been received so far, it is looking promising.

Rhoades Park

Ann J reported that visitation has been steady, not heavy, but encouraging, and while gate donations are far from record levels, at least a moderate amount of money has been raised. It has been an extremely dry summer and the past 4 weeks have been much hotter than average so there is a small concern about the well usage levels if it remains dry and hot.

Tree Business

(Action Item) The Tree Fund Appeal letter will be prepared by Ann J for a mailing toward the end of the summer/early fall. Ann will include something about the Pemetec planting project in the letter. The illustrated flyer about "How to Kill a Tree" may also be included with the solicitation letter. She will circulate before finalizing.

(Action Item) Eleanor will contact Kris Harper about the annual tree inspection and will keep Ann Ratcliff in the loop about the date.

(Action Item) Ann Ratcliff will get some bids for the trees and plantings between the school entrance and exit for possible installation next spring. Eleanor mentioned her preference for spruce trees; maple trees are presently on the plan. Ann will work to get in-kind donations alongside bids to make it more affordable for the School and Conservation Commission.

(Action Item) Ann R will meet with the Pemetec School Board to present the plans for installing new trees and plantings between the driveway entrance and exit.

(Action Item) Ann J will contact Williams Irrigation to find out about installing irrigation for the new plan.

Chris' Pond

Some members of the Select Board have changed just as the Town has expressed interest in land use of the property adjacent to Chris' Pond. The Commission asked Jane to be the Conservation Commission liaison to the Board and Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

(Action Item) Jane will report at meetings on developments between the Town, the abutter(s), and Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

Straw Poll – Deer Population Issue

Kristin reported that there was sufficient interest from residents who responded to the straw poll to bring it to the Select Board's attention for further review/action. She will present it at the next Select Board meeting. Francine will continue to monitor local articles to update us as needed.