

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission Minutes

October 4th, 2023

I IN ATTENDANCE: Valerie Bodner, Dick Dimond, Ann Judd, Francine Mayhew, Eleanor Park, Ann Ratcliff, Kathleen Slack; on Zoom: Elena Scotti, Natasha Watson (liaison); Guest: Kathy Lindquist. Excused: Ellen Scull, Kristin Hutchins, Terry Powers, Jim Geary, Jane Ayres. Audience: Aimée Williams.

Motion by Ann and seconded by Eleanor to adopt agenda. All in favor. Conflict of interest queried; none.

Motion by Ann and seconded by Eleanor to approve meeting minutes of 9/5/2023. All in favor. Motion by Ann and seconded by Eleanor to change meeting date to the first Wednesday of the month. All in favor. Motion by Kathleen and seconded by Eleanor to allow any action to be voted on at this meeting. All in favor. Motion made by Ann R and seconded by Eleanor to authorize Francine to be a signatory on the Conservation Commission checking account. All in favor.

II Reports

Treasurer. Ann J. went over account balances for Conservation Commission. *Ann R. moved and Eleanor seconded to allow up to \$25,000 to be transferred from our Checking Account to our Savings Account. Ann R moved and Eleanor seconded to approve Louise Soucy as an associate member and Treasurer.* She will not be a signatory for paying bills but will balance the accounts. The Conservation Commission Budget was tabled until next month. We need to determine bookkeeping expenses and the QuickBooks subscription cost, which was signed up for last spring. *Ann R. moved and Eleanor seconded the motion to move up to \$15,000 from the Savings Account to the Maine Community Foundation Charlotte Rhoades Park endowment.*

Tree Warden. Eleanor reported that she and Billy Guess had done an inspection of the trees and that there was a hazard tree at Pemetec School that was threatening the swing set. It will need to be removed as soon as possible, and the School will receive an estimate asap. Unfortunately, at Harbor House there are three trees that are not in good health; an elm, a maple and an ash tree that need serious pruning or possible removal. The Tree wardens will work with the Arborist to determine what needs to be done for safety in this high foot traffic area. *The FY '24-'25 Tree Fund Budget was presented, and it was moved by Francine and seconded by Ann to accept the budget; all in favor.* The amount to be asked of the Town is unchanged from this year's request.

Butterfly Garden. Ann J. reported that the Rhoades Butterfly Gardens would be buttoned up by the middle of October. *The '24-'25 budget was presented and it was moved by Ann R. and seconded by Eleanor to accept the budget ; all in favor.* There is no increase in the request from the Town.

Veterans Park Project. Ann J. reported that the mailing was ready to process and asked for helpers to stuff the approximately 1,400 letters. She thanked Francine for taking up much of this task. The mailing will need to go out in November before Veterans Day. The budget was tabled until our next meeting because Ann will speak with Town Manager Marilyn about setting up a Reserve account for the Park for future unexpected expenses, so that the budget request from the Town will be put in the Reserve account.

Chris' Pond. Valerie spoke about her meeting with the Select Board and issues about permitting for removal of some of the aquatic sedge. The Pond has been classified as a "stream" by the state, so she is exploring that criteria before making any decisions about next steps. Tests are being done by Bonnie Norwood and the Pemetec students under Valerie's supervision, and the school children will report the results to the Select Board. The cost of the equipment and mailings for the tests is about \$350.00 and fortunately we have money in the Chris' Pond budget to cover that. Elena spoke about the grant process for the Pond and has been in touch with Carolyn and Misha at Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Elena will give us an update on the grant process at our November meeting. The FY '24-'25 Chris' Pond Budget will be presented at the November meeting.

Membership. *Ann R. moved and Eleanor seconded to have Kathi Lindquist become a voting member for a three year term. All in favor.* Ann J. will let Marilyn know of the membership changes.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2023, at 430pm

