

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 4th, 2023

In attendance: Eleanor Park, Francine Mayhew, Jane Peabody, Kristin Hutchins, Valerie Bodner, Ellen Scull; on Zoom: Ann Ratcliff, Ann Judd, Terry Powers, Elena Scotti; BOS liason Natasha Watson.
Excused: Jim Geary, Kathleen Slack. Absent: Jeff Dutra. Guests on Zoom: Piper Curtain, AW.
Eleanor Park presided.

It was moved by Jane and seconded by Ellen to adopt the Agenda; all in favor to adopt. No voting member had a conflict of interest. It was moved by Francine and seconded by Eleanor to approve the minutes; all were in favor to approve.

Treasurer Report Jane has been closely watching the interest rates that are favorable for savings account CC funds this month. No investment changes for our funds will be considered this month.

Tree Warden Report Eleanor reported that Town trees have been worked on by Eagle Arborculture and will be soon fertilized; some elms may be considered for additional disease treatment. She was pleased that Eagle was doing a good job on our trees.

Rhoades Park Ann Judd reported that volunteers would be starting up on April 13th to remove brush from the gardens and start Spring cleaning of the park. The website specialist will be updating the website in April and is also working on the plant database. Ticket sales for the July benefit have been happening since February through the website. The Coast Guard will be contacted for their "Earth Day" volunteering (raking the lawns and garden beds) happening later this month.

Brown Tailed Moth Ann J talked about the Brown Tailed moth potentially making an unwanted appearance as soon as this month on trees everywhere, and asked if we can post information about it for the benefit of the public. It was suggested to put information in the Library, School, Post Office, Healthy Acadia billboard, and Town Office. Ann will coordinate getting the information out with Jane.

Chris' Pond Kristin spoke about the need to get information out to the Public regarding the vote on May 1st to accept the gift of land abutting the pond from Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Elena is writing an informational press release for the paper this month. BOS Chair Ball is writing a timeline regarding the Chris' Pond project and the actions that have taken place over the past 2 ½ years. Kristin, Misha, Jane, Town Manager Lowell, Natasha, Elena, and Matt Henlon from Land and Water Conservation Fund met to discuss the grant process if we are to apply for it in 2023. An information meeting hosted by the Commission will take place at the Town Office and on Zoom on Monday, April 24th, at 6pm. All Commission members are encouraged to attend. All of the Commission will be present at Town Meeting on May 1st, and Commission members will also be attending the Board of Selectmen meeting on April 25th to answer questions.

Conservation Commission Award Ann J informed everyone about the LaRue Spiker award which was last presented many years ago for conservation work. She asked everyone to think of potential recipients.

Membership Ann J will ask for nominations May 2nd to renew terms for members whose terms expire 6/30.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 1st starting at 430pm (*Note earlier time)