

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2022

In attendance: Ellen Scull; Kristin Hutchins; Ann Ratcliff (zoom); Jim Geary (zoom); Ann Judd; Kathleen Slack; Francine Mayhew; Elena Scotti. Excused: Susan Allen, Jane Ayres. Absent: Valerie Bodner, Eleanor Park, Terry Powers, Jeff Dutra; Guest: Natasha Johnson, BOS liaison.

- I **Approval of Minutes:** Ann R. moved and Kathleen seconded approval; all in favor.
- II **Income and Expenditures for June and July:** In the absence of a Treasurer's report, Ann J. reported that income and expenditures for July were similar to last year, with healthy gate donations for Charlotte Rhoades Park and a successful Butterfly Release.
- III **Rhoades Park:** Evergreen trees were planted in June along the northern lot line of the Park to increase the natural screening buffer. Some vandalism of the garden beds at the end of June prompted a generous gift of security cameras from David Scull and Francine Mayhew. The cameras are checked daily for after-hours activity. In mid-July Island Readers and Writers held a morning workshop for kids that was a great success. The Butterfly Release took place on July 28<sup>th</sup> and tickets were completely sold out for the two sessions. Over 50 volunteers helped on the day. Free weekly events are the Story Hour for Tots every Tuesday, and the Junior Naturalist Program every Friday. Both have been well attended. Fall School Field trips are scheduled between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September. All in all, it has been a very successful summer.
- IV **Tree Business.** The Tree Fund Appeal was processed during the meeting by all members present. Ann J. mentioned that the new Pemetec Tree planting needed to be checked with the hot summer temperatures and would contact Eleanor, who was unable to be at the meeting.
- V **Veterans Park.** Clean-up work will be started during August. The idea of a solicitation for the Vet Park was suggested to take place later in the fall. More discussion to come.
- VI **Chris' Pond.** Jim will speak with Misha Mytar at Maine Coast Heritage Trust to get any updates from her, now that the properties adjacent to the pond are completed purchases. Jim will wait to hear from the Board of Selectmen to find out if/when they would like for the Commission come to discuss options for the future of Chris' Pond.
- VII **Public Rights of Way.** Kathleen has made a list of Public Rights of Way with access to the water in Southwest Harbor and taken photos of the locations. They are The Upper and Lower Town Docks, Lawler Lane, Harbor Avenue, Manset Dock, and Cable Crossing. Natasha would like to put a bench at the end of Harbor Avenue, because of the numbers of people who come down the short avenue to the Harbor. Ways and means were discussed, and Ann and Jane will look at options.
- VIII **Membership.** Ann and Kristin are to be given terms for Associate Membership as moved and seconded by Kathleen and Ellen, respectively. Natasha Johnson will be the Select Board liaison to the Commission. Natasha distributed the Conduct Policy for boards and committees. Ann will be sure to circulate the document to all the Commission members.

**NEXT MEETING: September 6, 4pm at the Town Office**