

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission Minutes
September 6, 2022

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

A motion to approve the minutes of August 9th meeting was made by Jane Ayres and seconded by Eleanor Park. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report Jane reported that she had moved \$15,000 from the Conservation Commission bank account to the Maine Community Foundation and had requested \$15,000 from the MCF Endowment to be sent to the Town of Southwest Harbor for the Charlotte Rhoades Park Reserve Account. Summer income and expenses are running very similar to last year.

Rhoades Park Valerie is doing a butterfly count as part of the Monarch program. There has been an increase in overall butterfly activity this summer season due to heat and very little precipitation. September field trips have been scheduled with area Elementary Schools and begin on September 9th. Pemetic School now has a Monarch Waystation thanks to a gift from a local garden club to pay for soil and butterfly bushes, and 100 milkweed plants donated by Ann Judd. Greg Dow, the school custodian, offered to put down some bark mulch on the garden border to keep out weeds. The school is very appreciative of the new garden, which is located next to the greenhouse.

Tree Business The 2021 planting of trees and ferns in front of the school needs some attention for weed control. About \$3,000 has come in from the Tree Fund Appeal, which was about the same amount last year at this time. Jane and Ann J. went to the Main St. turnout that has a view of Norwood Cove and the Causeway Club (beyond) to look it over. Val and Jane had met with Scott Alley there in late winter; he told them that the Town wanted to clear/prune for better views and was looking for help from the Conservation Commission. Billy Guest of Eagle Arborculture was parked at the turnout and gave Ann and Jane an estimate of \$1,200.00 and timetable for the work, which can be done in the fall.

Veterans Park Ann J. reported that clean-up has started at the Park with removals of runaway weeds and scrub. Frost Farms will coordinate with the Conservation Commission on new plantings, power washing, lawn repair etc. over the fall with a goal of having it renovated by next summer. Frost Farms is hired by the Town to do the seasonal maintenance for the Park.

Chris' Pond Jane will check on the condition of the property and shed.

Conduct Policy – Attendance Requirements for members The conduct policy has now been adopted by the Board of Selectmen. Eleanor moved and Jane seconded for the Conservation Commission to adopt the final version of conduct policy. Ann J. will send it around to everyone with the meeting minutes. The attendance requirement is an important change for members of all committees and the Select Board. It reads: "Attendance at meetings is critical to a committee's success. Three unexcused absences in a row will be considered submission of the member's resignation." Ann will make an effort to remind everyone of the attendance obligation.

Conservation Commission By-Laws/Committee Guidelines Ann distributed a rough draft of By-Laws/Guidelines based on an earlier document, plus the State Statute, and a prior write-up of Tree Warden responsibilities. Elena, Val, Ellen and Ann will work to make corrections and revisions and will report back to the Commission.

Harbor Avenue Bench. Ann reported that she had been in touch with Marilyn who told her that Public Works was not in favor of placing a bench at the road's end but would be open to placing some large granite blocks, which they have in abundance at the Town Garage. Ann will speak with Scott Alley, Public Works Director.

Next meeting: OCTOBER 4th, at 530pm (Note later time), Town Office and on ZOOM