

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, March 7th, 2023

- I **In attendance:** Jane Peabody, Kristin Hutchins, Elena Scotti, Ann Judd, Ann Ratcliff, Eleanor Park, Francine Mayhew; guest: Misha Mytar, MCHT; Excused; Ellen Scull, Valerie Bodner, Jim Geary, Terry Powers, Natasha Watson BOS liaison; absent: Jeff Dutra. Francine presided.

The agenda was moved by Jane, seconded by Eleanor, and adopted as presented; no voting members had a Conflict of Interest. Minutes of February 7th, 2023 were moved by Francine and seconded by Jane. Vote unanimous to approve.

- II **Tree Warden** Eleanor reported that work had been done between snowstorms on large the Elm Tree by a tree service that was not our contractor, but a service hired by the power company. We are still waiting for work to be done on our Town trees, but it should happen soon.

- III **Buffering Standards** Ann Ratcliff attended the Planning Board meeting which was holding a preliminary review of the application for the soon to be developed property next to the former Letcher property on Main Street. The formal hearing for the application will take place on March 16th. Ann will send an email to the Planning Board Chair to ask if we can weigh in where needed on buffering for future projects.

- IV **Chris' Pond** Kristin and Misha reported on the recent Selectmens meeting. It resulted in a positive vote and green light to go ahead and place a warrant article before voters at the upcoming Town Meeting to accept the gift of lands from MCHT.

It was recommended that the grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund should be submitted sooner rather than later. Kristin, Jane, Elena, Kathleen, and Misha will schedule a meeting with the Town Manager and Matthew Henyon, assistant to Doug Beck (Land and Water Conservation Fund representative) to ask questions about the grant process.

Elena agreed to write an article/newsletter for the newspaper, with Kristin's help.

Misha and Kristin were thanked by all for their hard work on the Pond project.

- VI **Freedom of Access** Kristin spoke to the group about Freedom of Access and how that applies to the Commission. She suggested that members consider having a separate email that is strictly for communications about our Committee business.

Jane moved and Francine seconded to adjourn meeting. All in favor.

Next Meeting: March 4th, 530pm at the Town Office and on Zoom