

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 28, 2020

In attendance via ZOOM: Jane Ayres, Susan Allen, Ellen Scull, Francine Mayhew, Ann Judd, Kristin Hutchins, Ann Ratcliff, and Misha Mytar (guest - Maine Coast Heritage Trust), Justin Van Dongen, Town Manager

I Minutes of the April 30, 2020 meeting were approved

II Tree Business – The remaining Elm in front of Pemetec School was taken down by arborist Kris Harper. Pemetec will pay for 50% of the cost and the Tree Fund will pay for the remainder. Ann Ratcliff offered to create a plan for re-landscaping options that will be considered by the Commission at its June meeting. Harper will also do pruning on some of the other in-town trees.

III Chris' Pond – Misha Mytar gave a presentation on the pond property, with information about two abutters, and in particular spoke about the abutting property that is presently for sale. The Town Manager informed the Commission about the other abutter and the skaters warming hut which was constructed in the abutter's right of way. It was decided to ask Misha to go to a June selectmen's meeting with members of the Conservation Commission and the Pond skater's group plus representation from the abutters to further discuss possible options for a land use plan with the help of Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

IV Charlotte Rhoades Park: Summer Opening Plan – Ann Judd asked the Town Manager to request permission at the next Selectmen's meeting to open the park with special summer guidelines for the 2020 season. The Park open hours would be daily from 11am to sunset. The Butterfly Education Barn would remain closed to visitors this year, the Butterfly Release would be cancelled, and the June "Open House" would be cancelled. Family pollinator educational activities will be available on the website.

V Buffering Requirements in Land Use Ordinance – Ann Ratcliff asked if we could review the current guidelines that have been in place. She questioned whether the Planning Board has made sure that requirements have been met when the permit application calls for buffering.

VI Deer issues on Mount Desert Island – The Commission is still interested in working with the Town on deer population issues. Kristin will reinitiate the straw poll idea with the Selectmen in a future newsletter to determine if residents are concerned enough for the Town to take some action,