

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
November 15th, 2019 meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Jane Ayres, Francine Mayhew, Ellen Scull, Eleanor Park, Susan Reiff Allen, Ann Ratcliff, Elena Scotti (for Terry Powers), Ann Judd, Board Liaison Kristin Hutchins
Guests: Priscilla Hutton, Martina Dittmar

I **Minutes** of the October 15th, 2019 meeting were approved

II **Treasurer's Updates**

The construction checking account has been closed and money has been moved to the savings account. The interest rate is so favorable that 75% of the regular checking funds have also been moved to the savings account. Money will be moved when needed.

III **Deer Accidents**

Francine will have information for the Commission at a later meeting.

IV **Budgets and Presentation to the Selectmen at their meeting November 26th**

In preparation for the Selectmen's Meeting, the State Statute on Conservation Commissions was reviewed by Commission members as was the Charlotte Rhoades Park indenture approved by Town voters in 1970. The Tree Fund Budget was re-approved after raising the amount from \$2,000 to \$2,250. The \$250 for the Tree Fund mailing has been transferred from the Commission Budget to the Tree Fund budget. Budgets for the Conservation Commission (\$675.00) and Rhoades Park (\$7,470) were discussed and approved. A letter of appreciation from a couple from California who visited the Butterfly Garden this past summer was circulated and will be added to the Selectmen's packet. The letter is a heartwarming example of the very positive impression that the Charlotte Rhoades Park has made on visitors and the education that it provides. Eleanor, Jane and Ellen will be able to represent the Commission at the Selectmen's meeting. If anyone else is available, please come. Check with the town office on the time.

V **Tree Business**

Ann Judd included a short history and explanation of the Tree Fund to be attached to the Tree Fund Budget. Ann Ratcliff presented a job description and duties of the Tree Warden that will also be attached to the budget as part of the presentation to the Selectmen.

VI **Earth Day Activities**

After discussion and circulation of different ideas for the 50-year celebration of Earth Day, Martina suggested a special education event in Southwest Harbor for April 22nd. The Commission will give away seed starting 6 packs for milkweed varieties at the barn, with instructions on how to grow/where to plant to encourage Monarch Butterflies to lay more eggs. The Bar Harbor Conservation Commission will be discussing Earth Day activities at their **December 9th** meeting at their municipal building at 530pm. Eleanor will be able to represent the Commission at that meeting. If anyone else can go, please contact Eleanor.

Next Meeting: To Be Determined