

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2018

Attendance : Eleanor Parks (Presiding), Ellen Scull, Francine, Mayhew, Ann Ratcliff, Jane Ayres, Ann Judd, Kristin Hutchins: Liaison – Board of Selectmen. Excused: Terry Powers, Susan Allen

Minutes of September 26, 2018 were approved.

Rhoades Park construction project – The contract for the construction of the Rhoades Park barn was approved by the Selectmen and signed by the Town Manager and Treasurer Jane Ayres. Trenches have been dug for water and sewer, a new well has been drilled (200’/100 gal/minute) and framing has begun by builder Jon Romano and crew. Jane has paid Romano Construction a first installment of \$24,000 and materials that have been delivered to the site. Electrical trenching will take place next week.

2019 Budgets were approved by Commission members for the Tree Fund budget and for the Conservation Commission Budget. Jane and Ann J will formulate the Rhoades Park budget with a plan to request money to pay for a new road sign for the park. (*Action item) The old sign has totally deteriorated over 20 years. Ann thinks that the new sign will cost \$1000-1200 and will get some bids* to compare. (*Action item)

Tree Inspection and Planned Work Eleanor reported that Jeff Dutra, Kris Harper, Ellen Scull and she met on the High Road to look at two Lindens owned by residents Sue Newman and Tom Hodge. The Newman tree is large, beautiful, but old and needs to be cabled for an estimate of \$1200, and the Hodge tree is becoming a nuisance with the power lines and should be removed; the estimate for removal is \$5,000-\$6,000. After some discussion about who was responsible for ongoing care of trees on private property versus public property, it was decided that the tree owners needed to be contacted for clarification of our policy, which is that the Tree Fund is not used to fund removals or major work on privately owned trees. Eleanor did contact Emera power company to come and look at the tree for removal, but generally Emera is not doing this kind of tree work unless the lines are sparking, and even then the actions by Emera might be limited. Ann J. will contact Sue Newman and Tom Hodge and try to work something out with cost sharing, and also consult with the Town Manager (*Action item). Eleanor also reported that an ailing spruce tree on the Herrick Road needed to be removed, and the Hawthorne trees at the Veterans Park may be in bad shape.

Ann Ratcliff learned from the Pemetec principal that the school is receptive to discussion about planting new trees on school grounds. Ann J. will draft memo to the School Board to request a time to go before the school board to explore possibilities (*Action Item).

Donation Increases at the Charlotte Rhoades - The Commission voted in the following, effective next season:

Wedding Ceremonies: For Residents: \$250.00 Non Residents: \$300.00

Other events: 40 people or less 2 ½ hours: \$150; over 40 people 2 ½ hours: \$250

Suggested donation (donation box) \$5.00 (formerly \$2.00)

Benefit Adult admission ticket (children free) \$35.00 (formerly \$30.00); Patron \$200
formerly \$150)

Chris's Pond Warming Hut Ann Judd talked about the Conservation Commission's involvement with Chris's Pond over the past many years. The warming hut is to be moved because of potential real estate sale, with the hope that the change will not affect the public's skating experience. Previously, the Conservation Commission was involved with the maintenance of the Pond after Pemetic students worked to put it under a conservation easement with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, but today Southwest Harbor parents are responsible for it.

SWH Plastic Bag Ordinance By unanimous vote, the Conservation Commission fully supports the ordinance drafted by the Pemetic Elementary students to "limit the use of single use carryout bags to reduce litter and to reduce the environmental impact caused by the use of single use plastic bags". Additionally, the Commission voted to support the ordinance to ban the use of polystyrene foam food service containers. Ann J. suggested that the Commission might help the effort by helping the school sell recycled grocery carry bags at very reduced cost. Ann J will talk to Bonnie Norwood, the teacher who is working with the kids on the ordinance about this (*Action item).

2019 Charlotte Rhoades Park Celebration Event

Ann Judd talked about a public "opening" for the renovated Charlotte Rhoades Park next June. It would be an afternoon open house with a jazz band from the high school. This would be a free event for the community. More details will be coming.

Next Meeting Wednesday November 7, 2018