

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting

In attendance: In Person: Valerie Bodner, Jane Ayres, Kristin Hutchins, Eleanor Park; On Zoom: Ann Judd, Elena Scotti, Francine Mayhew, Misha Mytar, Kathleen Slack, Ann Ratcliff, Terry Powers; Excused: Ellen Scull, Jim Geary; Absent: Jeff Dutra. Guest: Ms. Piper, writer for The Islander.

Eleanor moved and Francine seconded the motion to approve the corrected minutes of December 6, 2022.

**Treasurer's Update** Jane has transferred donation funds (that came in at year's end for the Tree Fund and Charlotte Rhoades Park) from checking to savings to take advantage of current interest rates. Anticipated expenses for spring will include fencing repairs and replacements and painting of the barn exterior at the Charlotte Rhoades.

**Tree Warden Report** Eleanor is expecting the annual tree work to take place in February by Eagle Arborculture. This expense will come out of the annual budget appropriation given by the Town plus the private donations to the Tree Fund.

**Chris' Pond Updates** Misha from Maine Coast Heritage Trust reported that the back parcel of the Deardon lot will be put on the market for sale. Misha and Commission members agreed that the Chris' Pond Project needed to be brought back before the Selectmen soon if there is any possibility of getting application approval for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 2023. It is also important that newer members of the Select Board are familiar with the project and that the Board approves of applying for the grant.

**Buffering Standards** Ann Ratcliff will lead a discussion at the February meeting about potential changes in buffering standards.

**Chairmanship** Ann J. reported that she had spoken with Town Manager Lowell about the possibility of having co-Chairs for the Conservation Commission, which Lowell said was OK providing the Commission voted to adopt it. Meanwhile, the Commission is rotating "Presiders" amongst the voting members from month to month. Ann Ratcliff offered to preside at the February meeting. Jane mentioned that she had watched a video on proper procedure for having committee meetings and that we should at future meetings include 1) a roll call, 2) announcement of excused absences, 3) adoption of agenda and 4) ask if anyone has a conflict of interest with any part of the agenda.

**Next meeting: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:30pm**