

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2018

In Attendance: Francine Mayhew, Ellen Scull, Eleanor Park, Jane Ayres, Ann Judd; Absent (excused): Ann Ratcliff, Terry Powers, Susan Reiff Allen

Francine Mayhew presided over the meeting. Minutes of the August 22nd meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Update: Jane reported that overall it has been a good year for contributions, and they are still coming in strong. Ann reported that the Butterfly Release fundraiser brought in \$16,180, which is excellent! It gives us a small cushion going into the Rhoades Park construction project. Because of the construction, the water was shut off on the 15th of September, but the irrigation was on a lot this summer on account of the hot and dry weather, so we are still anticipating a large summer water bill for the Rhoades Park. Jane opened a construction account at the First National Bank so that all invoices and checks paid for the renovation will be easy to track. It was reported that Tree Fund deposits to date from the late summer solicitation are at \$4,513. The Commission approved the amount of \$4300 to be used for tree work this fall.

Tree Business: Eleanor reported that she has coordinated a tree assessment with Arborist Kris Harper, Tree Warden Jeff Dutra, and herself for Tuesday October 1st. The money approved by the Commission will be used for work on the town's trees as determined by this inspection. Ellen Scull offered to accompany the group, and Ann Ratcliff will also be contacted to participate. Ann Ratcliff sent an e-mail to the Principal of Pemetic Elementary School regarding possible planting locations for one or two trees on the school grounds. The hope is that a new tree can be planted near the old elm that was removed by the school entrance. **Additionally, the Commission members decided to each individually send in a Tree Fund donation of \$25 for a tribute tree (flowering crab) for Tree Warden Jeff Dutra and his mother, who passed away earlier this week;** it will be planted at the Charlotte Rhoades Park either later this fall or next spring. Checks are to be sent to SWH Tree Fund, P O Box 263, SW Harbor, ME 04679 – memo: Jeff Dutra and mom tribute. Ellen and Eleanor will check to see if there might be an appropriate tree in the inventory at Islandsapping to use.

Rhoades Park The construction project so long awaited has finally begun! Commission members expressed their gratitude to two labor crews from estates in Seal Harbor and Northeast Harbor who joined other volunteers at the park Thursday September 15th to efficiently move and heel in plants that will be saved for the new beds next spring.

The construction project started September 17th with tree cutting and site clearing. On September 18th the Rhoades House was demolished. The remainder of the week (September 19-21) saw continued activity of site clearing and pounding ledge in the new parking area as well as the area where the new building will be constructed. The property is very much open to the cove and sky now and the park has doubled in size with the clearing. The hope is to get some trees planted later this fall and rough in the irrigation.

Ann Judd went to the SWH Selectmen's meeting on October 25th for authorization of the Town Manager and Conservation Commission Treasurer to sign the contract to build the butterfly education barn. At that time Ann also asked that the Selectmen appoint one of their own to be a liaison to the Conservation Commission for the duration of the project and beyond. Kristin Hutchins offered to do this and will be sent minutes of meetings, will visit the site and will come to a future Conservation meeting. Ann also offered to meet with her to answer any questions.

Next meeting: Ann will send out an e-mail to decide October 17th or 18th for a meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Judd