Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 @ 4:30 PM
Town Offices and by Zoom

I. Call to Order: Kathi called the meeting to order at 4:30.
Voting Members Present: Kathi Lindquist, Co-chair; Francine Mayhew, Co-chair; Kristin Hutchins, Secretary; Kathryn Strand and by Zoom, Kathleen Slack. Ann Ratcliff joined the meeting at 4:33. **Excused:** Terry Powers.

Associate Members Present: Hilary Hudson and Ann Judd, Treasurer.

Guests:

II. Agenda, Approval / Modifications: Added, a discussion of Veteran's Park.

IV. Public Comment: May be made in person or submitted, prior, to: townclerk@southwestharbor.org

V. Approval of Minutes: Kathryn moved, Kathi seconded, to accept the minutes of 26.8.5 as presented. Passed, 5-0-0.

VI. Treasurer's Report: Ann J requested that the commissioners remove $20,000 from the ME Community Foundation to the checking account so that Ann can reimburse the town for staff wages. In October she will provide a complete treasurer's report.

Checking Account: $28,855,25.

Savings Account: $66,471.67.

Town held reserves. These are funds acquired through taxes.
Here are your balances as of today, 9/1/26:

- 1-220-20 Rhoades Park Reserve: -$7,868.74
- 1-220-21 Chris' Pond Reserve: $7,476.53
- 1-220-22 Veteran's Park Reserve: $990.00
- 1-220-23 Tree Fund Reserve: $528.87
- 415-7010-30 Conservation Expense: $1,050.00

VII. New Business:

VIII. Old Business:

A. **Veterans Park:** Hilary has begun assisting with the oversight of the Veterans Park. She has introduced herself to Frosty, discussed some new plantings and taken note of the invasion of common milkweed which will be removed to the Charlotte Rhoades Park. She noted also, some deer damage. Ann R said the medallion should be power washed. The flag pole needs to be cleaned as do the stone benches. Williams irrigation will be consulted on dealing with dry soils in the park. Thank you Hilary!

   Kathi asked about the issue of ice build up noted last winter. Ann R has looked at the source of the water that creates the ice issue. There is $990 in the park's reserve account which can cover additional work from Frosty who already has a contract with the Town.

B. **Hazardous Tree Policy:** Kathryn has made the edits requested by the SB. After the September SB meeting later this month. She volunteered to help with public communication of the new Hazardous Tree Policy

C. Tree Warden Report: The wardens notify the public of dangerous trees. Ann R has noticed a stressed linden and copper beech are becoming infected with a fungus that is moving north in the easter United States. Some tree planting has been stalled, waiting on Versant. Should we be paying someone to water new tree plantings?

Thanks to Kathryn for writing the tree fund's annual appeal letter. Kathryn will also help Ann J with the mailing list data base.

Hilary departed the meeting at 1700.

D. Chris's Pond: The CC should make an application to the Planning Board for the work it wants to commence. The driveway can be 'flagged out'. We should find out from Ardrianna at MCHT, how much money they are likely to donate to Chris's Pond, as the SB will want to know. MCHT hopes be close with Island Housing Trust on the land transfer.

E. **Charlotte Rhoades Park:** There were some difficulties with a wedding party this year that included their late arrival and the consumption of alcohol. Field trips for the fall are being organized. And there is an I Spy Program for the younger children. The Story Hour program is going well, thanks to Amanda Crafts and Linda Uberseder. Sara White puts on a Junior Naturalists Program. For this she receives a stipend of $400 each week of the program. Kip Wing is posting data from the butterfly tracking program weekly.

The Garden Club has donated money to buy five more trackers for next year (at $200 each). Ann J has bought 10 trackers already. There is a monarch watch going on in Kansas, August 8 – September 8. There are three triggers that begin the butterfly migration, shorter days, cooler weather and plant dieback.

The CRP will close after the holiday weekend.

IX. Adjournment: Kathi adjourned the meeting at 5:37.
X. Schedule Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 @ 4:30 pm

THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM THAT IS LISTED ON THIS AGENDA. *Public comment, limited to 3 minutes per speaker, is an opportunity for the Commission to listen to concerns and receive information from the public. The Commission will not engage in dialogue but will investigate as appropriate. Speakers and Commission members should be always respectful and professional.*