

**OGUNQUIT CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2011**

**A. ROLL CALL 6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Horn called the Roll with the following results:

Members Present:     Mike Horn, Chairperson  
                              Brad Sterl, Vice Chairperson  
                              Everett Leach  
                              Doug Mayer  
                              Bob Joyner

Members Excused:    Madeline Brown, Secretary

Mr. Horn noted the passing of long time Conservation Commission member Isabel Lewando. He expressed the Commission's deep sadness at this loss. Mr. Horn went on to say that Ms. Lewando was one of the original Conservation Commission members and that over the years she has done more for conservation efforts in Ogunquit than almost anyone else. She will be greatly missed.

**B. MINUTES - August 18, 2011**

**Mr. Sterl Moved to Approve the Minutes of the August 18, 2011 Meeting as Amended.  
STERL/LEACH 5/0 UNANIMOUS**

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1 Greening Program - New Activities / Mailing – Brown, Joyner.**

Mr. Joyner suggested that it may be too late in the season to go forward with the mailing, and that it may have a greater impact if it is sent out in the spring in conjunction with a showing of The Chemical Reaction. He also confirmed that Paul Tukey seemed fairly flexible on cost for a community showing and the cost may end up in the \$100 to \$200 range. They will probably come back to this issue around February when people are beginning to think about spring clean up and lawn care.

Mr. Sterl suggested posting information on WOGT.

Mr. Horn agreed and added that there have been some problems with the WOGT system as well as Town Hall's broadcasting capabilities. There really isn't anyone trained to operate the equipment. Mr. Horn suggested that the entire WOGT system needs to be updated and reorganized along with hiring someone who knows how to operate the equipment and is interested in doing so. He suggested that a live showing of Chemical Reaction may attract more viewers than running it on WOGT.

Mr. Joyner agreed that this suggestion merits further discussion. He suggested that having groups such as the Women's Group, Chamber of Commerce, etc. support the presentation may help bring more people in.

Mr. Mayer stressed that advertising will be key.

## **2. Conservation Land - Berwick Road to Ballot - Mayer, Horn.**

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that the next step is to present the plan to the Select Board for their approval. There is some uncertainty as to whether or not it is required to be presented to the voters. It appears as if the Select Board has the authority to designate the land as conservation land and that the question may not have to go to the voters. Mr. Horn agreed to contact the Town Manager and get a definitive answer from him.

Mr. Mayer noted that the Town Manager has suggested the Commission put together a PowerPoint presentation for the Select Board. Mr. Mayer is working on this.

Mr. Horn thanked Mr. Mayer, he also noted that it was due to Mr. Mayer's efforts that a presentation was available for Ms. Lewando's memorial service.

## **3. Healthy Beaches River / Beach Testing - Mayer, Leach.**

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that the HB Annual Report presentation to the Select Board will probably take place on December 6<sup>th</sup>. It will include the 2010 and 2011 testing seasons.

Mr. Mayer added that retests done after the August tests, which came in with very high counts, came in much lower. The retest was done at high tide and the results came in as expected.

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that he has received the Optical Brightener test results from HB. The results for the Leavitt Stream came back fairly high which indicates that there is some form of human generated contamination. The stream on the North side of Littlefield Village also produced high test results. Mr. Mayer would like to retest both sites.

Mr. Sterl asked if all the cottages at Littlefield Village are on town sewer.

Mr. Leach responded that at one time there was a printout indicating which cottages were hooked up and which were not. He suggested that the plans may be at the Code Enforcement Office.

Mr. Mayer noted that there is a great deal of animal activity along that stream and he stressed the importance of getting access to the human indicator testing. He also informed the Commission that HB will no longer be doing optical brightener tests.

Mr. Horn reminded the Commission that in the beginning, when they were testing the Josias River, the Commission did the water testing in-house, including the optical brightener tests.

Mr. Horn noted that the owners of the house on Coles Lane with the failing septic system have been in contact with the Code Enforcement Officer and they will be calling in a soils specialist to examine the problem.

Mr. Leach asked if they have retested the “hot spot” site behind the Black Boar.

Mr. Mayer responded that they revisited the site during the summer and there was no water, they will be revisiting again before winter.

## **D. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Waterfree Urinals Program – Horn.**

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that the Town will be installing two of the waterfree systems this week: one at the Dunaway Center and the other at Jacob’s Lot. The problem will be getting a base, from each location, for future comparisons.

### **2. Ogunquit River Watershed Committee.**

Mr. Horn tabled this item pending new information.

### **3. Pervious Paving Route 1 Sidewalk Plans.**

Mr. Horn spoke with the Town Manager and did not receive any positive feedback. A lot has to do with bonding and State contracts. They also do not have a firm start date for this project.

### **4. Berwick Road New paving - Catch Basins.**

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that there will be all new catch basins however they are not sure where the runoff will be located. He will follow up and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Mayer confirmed that it is important to determine exactly where the new catch basins will drain. He noted that some of the storm drains in the Abenaki Stream basin are old and broken down.

Mr. Horn suggested they meet with the Town Manager to discuss it.

### **5. \$25,000 Bond**

Mr. Horn noted that while the Select Board voted in support of the bond, it was the Budget Review Committee which recommended against it and the voters appear to have taken the recommendation of the Budget Review Committee. Although the vote was close the Commission lost the \$25, 000. Mr. Horn suggested they bring it back for another vote at the next meeting. Mr. Horn offered to draft a letter to the paper which he will submit to the Commission for its approval.

Mr. Joyner noted that given the headline in the paper about the 6% tax increase in Ogunquit this may not be the best time to ask the voters for more money. Also, the Select Board chair has repeatedly said that if the Commission finds a parcel of land it wants to purchase the Select Board would find the money. Mr. Joyner suggested they find a specific parcel and put together a purchase proposal for the Select Board to consider. He suggested the Commission approach the town and ask that one parcel of Town owned land be designated for conservation protection and then ask the town for the funding to purchase an abutting parcel.

Mr. Mayer suggested they wait until the Town has designated the first parcel of conservation land.

Mr. Horn agreed with both Mr. Joyner and Mr. Mayer's suggestions.

Mr. Joyner suggested that given the approach of "quiet time" of winter, the Commission limit the scope of the agendas for the next couple of meetings and only discuss the topic of land acquisition.

Mr. Horn agreed. He suggested they fine tune the presentation to the Select Board.

Mr. Joyner agreed and added that they also need to clearly define their objectives and approach.

Mr. Mayer reminded everyone of the importance of getting the Commission's message out to the public. He spoke with Jenn Ewing who agreed to put any slides or messages up on WOGT if they are submitted in Power Point format.

Mr. Horn stated that he has submitted several slides and messages in JPEG format and after a considerable amount of time, and repeated requests to get them posted, he was finally informed that submittals have to be in Power Point format. He agreed that there is a problem with WOGT.

The Commission agreed that WOGT is a valuable resource which is underutilized and not well maintained. The music has been discontinued and the slides are often stale and repeated for too long. There were several suggestions for sources of old photographs of Ogunquit which could be posted on WOGT and that this would be a valuable project for someone to undertake.

## **E. REPORTS -**

### **1. Beach Clean Up September 3, 2011.**

Mr. Horn summarized that it was a successful event. They had about 25 people involved, and as expected there was not very much trash collected. He reminded everyone that when this event was developed it was scheduled for Labor Day Weekend in order to attract the largest number of people. It also provided a wonderful opportunity to inform the public about the Commission's endeavors. That being said he would be content to move it to another date.

Mr. Mayer noted that there were a lot of people who stopped by the table. Some were interested in helping with the beach cleanup however most were interested in the free food. He suggested they might want to schedule next year's clean up for the end of the summer season.

Mr. Horn thanked Mr. Leach for taking the dozen or so bags of trash to the Transfer station, particularly given the lack of assistance from the Town.

Mr. Sterl noted that there was significantly less trash collected this year than has been collected in 2003.

Mr. Mayer noted that the Town's new "carry-in carry-out" policy has worked very well and the beach is the cleanest in recent memory.

Mr. Sterl asked about the new no smoking on the beach restriction and if there were less cigarette butts on the beach.

Mr. Horn responded that most of the cigarette butts were found in large deposits up in the parking lot where it appears as if people empty ashtrays.

Mr. Leach agreed and noted that there were a large number of cigarette butts at the first crossover as well. It appears that people are leaving the beach and going over the dunes to smoke there. There were other cigarette smoking areas by the dumpster on the riverside. He noted that the storm drain system which drains from the road may be carrying cigarette butts down as well.

Mr. Mayer stated that they need to speak to the Town Manager about the replacement of the dune fencing on the riverside of the dunes.

The Commission agreed that fencing on the riverside is needed.

## **2. Windward - Catch Basin Snout Installation September 13, 2011.**

Mr. Mayer noted that they met with the Town Public Works Head and the Windward Development Representative. They located one catch basin which may be a candidate for testing the Snout and the Bioskirt. They looked into another culvert and found a huge contraption which had a label on it that read "Downstream Defender". It appears that there may be as many as three of these installed in the storm water system at Windward Estates. These systems trap chemical pollution but are not designed to capture biological contaminants.

Mr. Horn noted that it would be interesting to know why these systems were installed when Windward was developed. He noted that Downstream Defenders are collection systems and he asked when they were last cleaned out.

Mr. Sterl responded that he was the one who recommended to the Planning Board that the installation of these systems be part of the Subdivision Approval.

Mr. Leach asked when the Snout and Bioskirt will be installed.

Mr. Horn responded: September 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

## **F. OTHER**

### **1. Fund Raising Discussion.**

Mr. Horn called for suggestions to raise money for the land fund. He noted that other organizations hold dinners, runs, etc and he suggested that this may, or may not, be what the Commission wants to do.

Mr. Leach asked about the Nellie Littlefield Planning Board Application.

Mr. Horn responded that the application has been withdrawn. He noted that the meeting was not televised because there was no one to run the cameras. He also noted that the Beach Street parking lot application has been withdrawn as well.

## **G. ADJOURNMENT –**

**Mr. Horn Moved to Adjourn at 7:40.  
HORN/JOYNER 5/0 UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully Submitted

Maryann Stacy  
Recording Secretary

*Approved on October 20, 2011*