

**OGUNQUIT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2012**

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
 Madeline Brown, Secretary
 Everett Leach
 Bob Joyner
 Doug Mayer

Also Present: Robert Winn (Select Board Member).

Guests regarding Moody Pond Stream Restoration Project:

**Jodi Castallo (MTA2C)
Annie Cox (Wells Reserve)
Darrell Detour (Great Works Regional Land Trust).**

Ms. Cox gave a brief presentation regarding the proposed project which will involve the removal of invasive plants and the restoration of the Beach Plum Farm Stream. She noted that they already have some funding in place and are asking Ogunquit for some matching funds and for the use of Ogunquit's seaweed.

It was noted by Mr. Leach that Joseph Littlefield (the owner of the pond) once stated that the pond is called "Roby's Pond" not "Moody Pond".

It was agreed that in the future the pond would be referred to as "Roby's Pond".

Ms. Cox informed the Commission that at one time the property was a dump and now there is a great deal of erosion.

Mr. Detour added that to the South of the farm road there is a slope where the farm dump is located. This area is now supporting a large stand of invasive plants. The plan is to evaluate the feasibility of removal of not only the invasive plants but also the dump. It is estimated that the length of the area in question is 450 feet in length. Immediate plans are to investigate only a small portion of this area. Mr. Detour summarized that they are asking for Ogunquit's assistance by: providing access to the Transfer Station for the disposal of removed material, providing a dumpster, permission to collect and use seaweed from Ogunquit's beach, and possibly providing financing support as well.

Ms. Cox noted that a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Permit will be required to harvest the seaweed from the beach.

Mr. Joyner suggested they speak to the Marginal Way Committee which is also very involved in the removal of invasive plant species. He also noted the appearance of knot weed (bamboo) which has begun to grow on the dunes.

Mr. Horn provided copies of water test reports and noted that there is nothing of consequence at the mouth of the pond, however levels for biological contaminants are very high at the mouth of the stream.

It was agreed by all that the better the buffer the better the water quality will be.

Mr. Horn questioned whether or not the DEP would grant approval for this project.

Ms. Cox responded that they are asking the DEP to come back and look at the area again. She also noted that the woman they are working with has done these types of projects in other towns and she is very experienced.

It was agreed that Mr. Horn would approach the Town Manger regarding obtaining a letter of support from the Town.

B) MINUTES - November 22, 2011.

**Ms. Brown Moved to Approve the Minutes of the November 22, 2011 Meeting as Amended.
BROWN/LEACH 5/0 UNANIMOUS**

C) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. Brown informed the Commission that at the next meeting they will provide a date for the spring mailing, which they expect to be sometime in April.

2. Conservation Land Berwick Road - Presentation to Select Board - Mayer, Horn.

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that the presentation is ready. He suggested going to the Select Board sooner rather than later. He summarized that the proposal is for the Town to designate a portion of already Town owned land as “conservation” land.

Mr. Horn responded that they have a tentative date of February 21, 2012, which everyone agreed to. He noted that with the Select Board’s approval the matter can be put before the voters in June. Mr. Horn suggested that the matter be submitted to the Town Planner so that he might draft the appropriate language for the ballot.

3. Beach / Dune Fencing 2011-2012 - Proposal to Town Manager – Horn.

Mr. Horn noted that the Town Manager met with the Town Crew in early January. At that time they cleaned the dunes in preparation for the installation of the new fencing. The intent is to begin fence installation on the riverside.

4. Waterless Urinal Installation Progress – Horn.

Mr. Horn reminded everyone that two units have already been installed: one at the Dunaway Center and one at the Jacobs Lot bathroom. The Head of Maintenance would like to install the next one at Moody. He suggested it may be impractical to put them in at the Main Beach due to the volume of use there.

D) NEW BUSINESS

1. Ogunquit River Watershed Committee.

Mr. Horn noted that this matter is in a holding pattern, however he suggested the Greening Committee might take on the challenge to help set up this committee.

Ms. Brown responded that she and Mr. Joyner might make some phone calls to see if there is interest.

Mr. Mayer suggested the Wells Reserve might have some suggestions as to who might be contacted. He noted that at a recent event at Beach Plum Farm, Tin Smith was able to present the three priorities of the Land Trust: 1) water quality, 2) forest, 3) farmland for production of local produce. He (Mr. Mayer) was able to bring out the Ogunquit Watershed Map. Many people had never seen this information and were amazed at the amount of area that drains almost directly into the Ogunquit River. The message was that a healthy watershed is essential to a healthy beach, which is essential to a healthy tourist economy.

2. Berwick Road New Catch Basins / Leavitt Stream.

Mr. Horn stated that the catch basins for the Leavitt Stream are still in the works. He also noted that the last catch basin would be an ideal location for the trap system, which is something the Commission will have to work on.

3. Windward Abutting Parcels - Test results.

Mr. Horn noted that on Dec 14th there was a site visit with Don Simpson (Windward Condo Assoc Pres), Tom Burns, Doug Mayer, and Craig Capone. At that time they created two new test site locations.

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that there are two drainages coming out of Windward. One is a storm water drainage that flows out behind the Gibbs Gas Station; the other is a surface flow which ends up in the Leavitt Stream by Vinton Road. The result is the placement of two new test sites.

It was determined that there is a large wetland above that area.

Mr. Winn informed the Commission that there is a problem with dog feces all along Jotham and Vinton Roads. He also pointed out that there are no sewer lines to Jotham.

Mr. Mayer stressed the important of local information such as the problem with dog feces.

Mr. Horn suggested placing signs along the Jotham area asking people to pick up after their dogs.

Mr. Winn suggested “dog poop bag dispensers”.

Mr. Horn agreed to look into signage.

4. Budget Submission 2012 Capital Improvement Projects & Operating.

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that the budget was similar to last year. The CIP submission was \$10,000 for the dune fencing and \$25,000 for the Conservation Land Fund. They will need support from the Select Board and the Budget Committee.

Mr. Winn suggested that the Code Office might become green space. He noted that there is a consensus among residents that it would be a good idea to leave the small parking area and open up the rest of the property to connect to the abutting park.

It was agreed that this would be a good plan.

Mr. Winn asked how much money the town has to raise to get matching funds from the State.

Mr. Horn responded that they are shooting for \$250,000 which when matched by the State would give them \$500,000 to purchase land.

Mr. Leach suggested letting the residents know what the goal is. Providing more information to the voters may encourage them to vote in the Commission’s favor.

It was noted that there has begun to be timber harvesting on both Berwick Road and Captain Thomas Road.

Mr. Mayer raised the issue of invasive species which have begun to grow by the bridge at the Main Beach.

Ms. Brown asked if this doesn’t fall within the Public Works’ responsibilities.

Mr. Joyner suggested they include the Marginal Way and beach areas as well.

Mr. Horn agreed that the Commission might make the recommendation to the Town however this issue falls outside the Commission’s scope of authority.

Mr. Mayer suggested that the Commission might act as an advisory body to the Select Board. They may be able to point out potential problems and make suggestions for potential remedies.

Mr. Joyner suggested sending an e-mail to the Town Manager letting him know that someone came to the Commission with concerns about these invasive plants, and that the Conservation Commission doesn’t feel this type of problem falls within the Commission’s purview, however they wanted the Town Manager to be made aware of the situation.

Mr. Mayer agreed to send such an e-mail.

Ms. Brown suggested they might explore the idea of a “beach committee” which might take responsibility for a holistic look at the beach.

Mr. Horn suggested Mr. Mayer speak to the Town Manger regarding the concerns over invasive species.

Mr. Horn brought up another subject.

Someone complained that he was told by the Ogunquit Animal Control Officer that he could not walk his dog along the service road by the estuary by the Moody Beach parking lot. Mr. Horn noted that there are signs up indicating that dogs are not allowed. In addition, the Town Ordinance states that there are no dogs allowed on the estuary.

Mr. Leach responded that he just happened to be in the area and saw someone walking a dog along the service road by the Sewer Treatment Plant. He informed the woman that dogs were not allowed in that area. At that time he saw the other person with his two dogs. Mr. Leach noted that the “no dogs” signage in place was incorrect and he (Mr. Leach) removed it.

Mr. Horn asked Mr. Leach to speak to the Town Manager and ask for new signs.

Mr. Leach responded that he already spoke to the Director of Public Works who agreed to have new signs made.

E) REPORTS -

1. Bittersweet Lane Subdivision Review.

Mr. Horn noted that the Planning Board has agreed with most of the Commission’s recommendations regarding this and potentially future subdivisions. He reminded everyone that the question of the cul-de-sac vs. the hammerhead has gone back and forth, with the Fire Chief changing his position several times. It was also noted that the initial Sketch Plan was discarded and redone to comply with clustering requirements.

2. MTA2C Open Space Workshop - Dec. 5, 2011.

Mr. Horn and Mr. Mayer attended the workshop.

Mr. Mayer noted that there were Planning Board members and one Select Board member also in attendance.

3. Beach Profiling.

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that with Mr. Leach’s assistance they have established a profile line at the Norseman seawall. They will now be able to collect data on the changing sand levels on a monthly basis.

F) OTHER

1. Fund Raising Discussion.

Mr. Winn suggested that it would be very helpful, come budget time, if the public was more aware of the work the Commission is involved in, and the accomplishments they have achieved. He suggested this could be done through the Town Manager and the Select Board.

Mr. Horn agreed and offered that the Commission might consider putting out a monthly newsletter.

2. Workshop

G) ADJOURNMENT -

**Mr. Joyner Moved to Adjourn at 7:55 p.m.
JOYNER/BROWN 6/0 UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully Submitted

Maryann Stacy
Recording Secretary

Approved on February 16, 2012