

**OGUNQUIT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

A) ROLL CALL 6:00 PM

Mr. Horn called the Roll with the following results:

Members Present: Mike Horn, Chairman
 Doug Mayer, Vice Chairman
 Madeline Brown, Secretary
 Bill Baker
 Glenn Deletetsky
 Kristen Rinaldi
 Brad Sterl, Non-voting Member

Members Excused: Bob Joyner

B) MINUTES 12/19/13

Minutes unavailable

C) UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. Current Activities Select Board Beach Funding Update

Mr. Horn distributed budget sheets. He pointed out the \$40,000 matching grant and noted that targeted water quality testing would not be approved as “in-kind” services.

Mr. Horn noted that QUAPP required tasks: there is a mandated DEP system costing several thousand dollars, there is also watershed bacteria monitoring requirements, and tracking investigation. These tasks cost approximately \$9,500. Mr. Horn noted that there currently is approximately \$5000 in the budget for this year and the same amount for next year. It has been suggested that bacteria monitoring be done this year and tracking begin next year.

March 1st is the tentative start date regarding the DEP, however the EPA will still have to approve the plans which may make the March 1st start date unrealistic.

Mr. Deletetsky asked how the money is disbursed to the Town.

Mr. Horn replied that the Town submits a bill.

Regarding the Beach, Mr. Horn noted that work is still being done to bring Healthy Beaches back, CONCOM has \$1,500 which might be used for a Healthy Beaches Coordinator, however the Town will have to come up with funding as well. It has been suggested the Beach Monitor position be linked to the Bird Monitor position. There is a good chance that the Healthy Beaches Coordinator position will be separate from the Beach Manager Position which would include patrolling the beaches, enforcing the no smoking and no dogs ordinances, and keeping people off the dunes, among other things.

Mr. Horn noted that there is currently no money budgeted for the deer fence for the dunes.

Mr. Mayer suggested the money might come from General Funds.

It was agreed that the use of deer fencing would be more effective than rope barriers.

Mr. Horn reviewed the proposed budget which is substantially the same as last year with the exception of the \$5000 for grant expenses which is the only portion of the matching funds which the Town is expected to pay in cash.

2. DEP \$100,000 Watershed Grant Approved-Action

See discussion noted above.

3. Watershed - New DNA Testing/Merchant-Mayer

Mr. Mayer noted that the DNA Testing probably won't happen until after March.

D) NEW BUSINESS

1. Healthy Beaches / Beach Manager Appointment 2014

Mr. Horn noted that the Beach Manager position is now in the Town Manager's and the Select Board's hands.

2. Dune Fence - Deer Fence Costs for New Install

Mr. Horn summarized that the estimated cost will be \$6000 which will cover fencing for both sides of the dunes, however it does not include labor. It was noted that approximately 90% of the support poles are still in place, and the fencing cost is approximately \$100 per roll.

3. Ogunquit Environmentalist of the Year Award

The Board confirmed that the recipient for this year's award will be Allyson Cavaretta, and that the presentation should be done at a Select Board Meeting in May when there are more people in town.

E) REPORTS

1. Additions to Town GIS map- Burns

Mr. Horn noted that there is a lack of maps for stormwater runoff in the Perkins Cove / Shore Road area. Mr. Burns estimates \$2000 to create the maps. Mr. Horn asked Phil Pickering if the Sewer Department would contribute, and he declined. Mr. Pickering noted that all of his systems are in place and these types of maps would not benefit the Sewer District.

Mr. Horn added that there is also a need to add the shoreland maps to the Town GIS system. The Code Enforcement Officer has stressed the need for these maps to be added to the system.

F) OTHER

1. Discussion - Update of Leavitt Stream and Shoreland RPD Maps

Mr. Mayer noted that there are meetings scheduled with the Code Enforcement Officer to discuss adding the entire length of the Leavitt Stream to the Shoreland Maps. The Code Enforcement Officer also has the money in his budget to produce the Shoreland overlays for the GIS System, and he is in favor of increasing the setbacks to 100 feet along the full length of the Leavitt Stream.

2. Fund Raising Discussion

Mr. Horn noted that CONCOM has submitted a request for the usual \$25,000 to go on the June Ballot. He confirmed that they did receive the funds last year primarily due to the Select Board endorsement.

Mr. Baker reminded everyone that part of the money, from last year, was used for the new property.

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that there is another property under discussion which will cost a great deal more.

3. Pesticide Ordinance – Brown

Ms. Brown summarized that last year, when the proposed ordinance failed to pass, the 375 votes broke out to: 183 votes against the ordinance, 173 for it, and 19 abstained. That ordinance was an amendment to an ordinance which was already in place for municipal properties. The key was “no pesticides – period!” except for poison ivy on the Marginal Way and if a citizen went to the Code Enforcement Officer for an exception permit.

Ms. Brown noted that there was very little marketing last year, the initiative may also have failed due to public aversion to governmental interference, the desire for green lawns, and the mistaken belief that small amounts of pesticides are not harmful.

Last time there were no other towns with similar ordinances, now there is a single town in Maryland which passed a similar ordinance. This Maryland ordinance prohibits the use of pesticides for cosmetic or esthetic reasons but does allow the use for health reasons.

This year’s approach will include targeting, by mail and telephone calls, the 375 individuals who voted last year. It has also been suggested that modifying the ordinance language to allow for more exceptions will help. It was agreed that an amendment to the existing ordinance has a better chance of passing than presenting an entirely new ordinance.

Ms. Brown noted that they might partner with Mainely Grass. She believes that if they ask for assistance they will get it. Mainely Grass also offered to help educate the public about natural alternatives to chemical pesticides. She suggested they might stress the exemptions while they educated the voters.

It was agreed that Ms. Brown would draft an amended ordinance which will include additional exemptions to the restrictions.

Ms. Brown asked if there was any way to get data regarding the nitrate levels in the water. She pointed out that it would be helpful if they could educate the public about the harm to the water from the use of the chemical pesticides and herbicides.

Mr. Deletetsky agreed that it could only help voters make their decisions if they knew that there were high levels of harmful chemicals in the river from the use of pesticides.

Mr. Horn suggested a broader approach, and he agreed to provide Ms. Brown with contact information for someone who might be able to get her information about the nitrate levels in water systems.

Mr. Mayer responded that Windward Subdivision had to go organic and that they also have done water testing. He suggested using them as a “successful poster subject”.

G) OTHER

Ms. Brown asked about the production of the septic list.

Mr. Horn responded that the Sewer District has that information.

Ms. Brown pointed out that the CONCOM website needs to be updated.

Mr. Horn agreed to speak to Mr. Joyner about this.

H) ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Deletetsky Moved to Adjourn at 7:08 p.m.
DELETETSKY/BAKER 6:0 UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully Submitted

Maryann Stacy

Maryann Stacy
Recording Secretary

Approved on March 20, 2014