

**OGUNQUIT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2010**

A. ROLL CALL 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Horn called the Roll with the following results:

Members Present: Mike Horn, Chairperson
Brad Sterl, Vice Chairperson
Bob Joyner
Doug Mayer
Everett Leach (1st Alternate)

Members Excused: Madeline Brown (Secretary)

B. MINUTES - September 23, 2010

**Mr. Sterl Moved to Approve the Minutes of the September 23, 2010 meeting as Submitted.
STERL/HORN 5/0 UNANIMOUS**

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Greening of Ogunquit - Pollution Filtration Systems - Joyner, Brown

Mr. Horn informed the commission that Ms. Brown has placed Greening Recycling Bags at the Town Hall for sale at \$1.50 each.

Mr. Joyner reminded everyone that the last Greening Meeting was held in October and the next meeting will take place on November 20th and that they have a new member, Jeff Page.

2. Ogunquit Beach Dune Fence - Winter Policy/Spring Planning

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that the Town Manager has agreed to a meeting in the early spring to discuss the dune fence installation. It is anticipated that a temporary summer fence will be installed from the Norseman Hotel to the first crossover. There is a possibility of year round fencing being place on the dune swale at the northern end of the beach.

Mr. Joyner responded that, for aesthetic reasons, he dislikes the idea of placement of the fencing along the top of the dunes. He also pointed out that if the fence is at the top of the dunes it will be ineffective in keeping people off the ocean side of the dunes.

Mr. Mayer, Mr. Leach, and Mr. Horn all agreed. Mr. Horn suggested they meet to discuss the matter prior to meeting with the Town Manager.

Mr. Horn added that the Town also needs to consider the issue of funding for the installation and yearly removal of the fencing.

Mr. Horn suggested the Commission discuss the matter further at the February meeting, they can then meet with the Town Manger in March, and with the State Geologist in April.

It was also agreed that the “no trespassing” signs are not effective in keeping people off the dunes.

3. Conservation Tracts Berwick Road Plan - Mayer, Joyner, Horn

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that there seems to be a problem accessing Tom Burns’ programming on the new CONCOM computer at the Land Use Office. He spoke to Mr. Burns and JT Lockman and the problem is not serious and will be corrected.

Mr. Mayer distributed maps illustrating the headwater of the Leavett Stream in an area between the new Transfer Station and Berwick Road. He noted that this area deserves serious consideration for conservation.

Mr. Horn asked Mr. Mayer to get larger more detailed maps of the area for the November CONCOM meeting.

Mr. Mayer agreed to do so, and suggested that the next step is to find out what the Town plans to do with that property. He suggested that they speak to the Town Manager about conserving the wetlands portion of the property as a green buffer zone.

On another matter, Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that it appears that someone is adding fill to a piece of property which may contain wetlands.

Mr. Horn acknowledged that this might be a problem and suggested they conduct an informal site visit. He also noted that the DEP may need to be informed.

Mr. Leach suggested that this falls under the Code Enforcement Officer’s jurisdiction and that they should contact Mr. Lempicki.

Mr. Horn agreed to contact the Code Enforcement Officer.

4. Ogunquit River Watershed Committee with Wells ConCom – Horn

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that he spoke with Owen Grumbling, Chair of the Wells CONCOM. Mr. Grumbling was very positive about the need for a joint Ogunquit River Watershed Committee between Ogunquit and Wells, and the need to find an effective Chairperson.

5. Dog Park Tree Removal - Mayer

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that tree clearing has begun. There was some confusion as to which trees were acceptable to remove and a few larger hardwoods have been cut. The Dog Park Committee has agreed not to remove any more hardwoods or substantial trees and to limit cutting/clearing to brush, deadwood, and pine saplings. They will also mark the larger trees and contact the CONCOM for a consultation.

6. Healthy Beaches / Phil Pickering – Abenaki Hot Spot

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that Mr. Pickering took some additional water samples upstream from the Abenaki Stream hot spot and the results were high enough to be significant. After a site walk they discovered a large domed brick structure with a manhole cover on it in the woods which Mr. Pickering believes to be part of an old storm drain coming down from Dana Road. In addition, one of the test sites, which Mr. Mayer believed to be a spring, was actually an outflow from this structure. They also found several capped PVC pipes sticking out of the ground. Mr. Pickering has confirmed that they are clean-out pipes for the Town's sewer system.

Mr. Pickering conducted a smoke test in the area and discovered that there are two homes which appear to not be hooked up to Town Sewer even though they are listed as such. The property owners have been paying sewer fees and may believe that they are hooked up to the Town Sewer when in fact they are not. If this is the case they probably have not had their septic tanks pumped or serviced in a long time and may be unaware that they have a problem. The next step will be for Mr. Pickering to contact the property owners and request permission to conduct a dye test.

Mr. Horn again praised Mr. Pickering for the work he has done on this project. Mr. Pickering has gone far and beyond what he is required to do and he has been an invaluable partner in this effort.

Mr. Mayer confirmed that Healthy Beaches has concluded this year's testing and will present their findings to the Select Board in the early spring.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Ogunquit River Corridor Parcels - Mayer, Horn

Mr. Horn confirmed that this topic will be tabled for the time being.

E. REPORTS

1. Ogunquit River Clam Flats – Opening - Leach

Mr. Leach informed the commission that the Town has received legal notice to change from “prohibited” to “conditional” opening of the flats from November 11th to April 30th. The boundaries will be the same as when the flats were closed. He also reminded everyone that the Littlefield Village Flats are still of concern.

Mr. Sterl asked Mr. Leach to push to keep the flats open in April, when more people are likely to dig. He also noted that test digs show that the flats are very full.

Mr. Mayer added that the stream which flows out of Roby's Pond and travels down between Beach Plum Farm and Littlefield Village is being watched by Healthy Beaches as a possible problem. When the Abenaki Hot Spot is resolved they will move onto other areas of concern and this will probably be one of them. Mr. Mayer reminded everyone that if they are able to locate several failed septic systems and fix them, water quality will improve almost immediately.

Mr. Horn agreed and referred back to the success of the Josias River project.

Mr. Mayer agreed and suggested they revisit the mouth of the Josias River every so often to confirm its continued good health.

2. Select Board Priority Workshop 10/12/10 - (See Handout)

Mr. Horn noted that several boards and committees (CONCOM, Marginal Way Committee, and the Select Board) were in attendance but there was a lack of attendance on the part of the general public. The primary discussion focused on the health of the beach and river and the Marginal Way. The Select Board will review the presented material and schedule another workshop at a later date.

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that Selectman Cavaretta again brought up the idea of dredging the river and moving the sand out to the front beach to increase the beach size at high tide. Mr. Horn again confirmed with the State Geologist that dredging will not be allowed and relocation of the sand would be ineffective anyway.

F. OTHER

Mr. Horn reminded everyone about the November 16th Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Seminar.

Mr. Horn referred to the discussion at the September meeting regarding the water biofiltration project used at York Hospital. Ms. Brown researched the company and the equipment and presented the information to the Town Manager. The company has a program whereby they will donate one system to the Town for a test run. The Town Manager has agreed to participate and will be working with the company.

Mr. Mayer provided material regarding the “snout” and suggested that if the Grasshopper Lane project involves a new catch basin it might be an appropriate opportunity to test this equipment.

Mr. Horn agreed and added that, in contrast to the Casco Traps which are intended to capture petrochemicals; this new equipment will capture biological contaminants as well.

G. ADJOURNMENT –

**Mr. Mayer Moved to Adjourn at 8:00 p.m.
MAYER/JOYNER 5/0 UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully Submitted

Maryann Stacy
Recording Secretary

Approved on November 18, 2010.