

**OGUNQUIT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2010**

A. ROLL CALL 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Horn called the Roll with the following results:

Members Present: Mike Horn, Chairperson
Madeline Brown (Secretary) (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)
Doug Mayer
Everett Leach (1st Alternate)

Members Excused: Brad Sterl, Vice Chairperson
Bob Joyner

Mr. Horn informed the Commission members that he had received an e-mail from Nancy Fording wherein she resigned from the Conservation Commission and the Watershed Committee, of which she was Chair. Mr. Horn expressed regret, but understanding and agreement, with her decision.

B. MINUTES May 20, 2010

**Mr. Mayer Moved to Approve the Minutes as Amended.
MAYER/HORN 4/0 UNANIMOUS**

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Greening of Ogunquit - 4th July Function, Mailings - Joyner, Brown.

Ms. Brown informed the Commission that they are ready for the July 4th event. There will be posters put up around Town, and they have 1600 bags which will be sold around town and down at the beach. The stores will be given information cards to post with the bags informing tourists what they can do to be “green visitors”. She noted that the primary theme down at the beach will be “carry in – carry out”. There will also be a bottle toss at the Main Beach parking lot to raise additional funds. Ms. Brown listed some of the local businesses who have donated prizes.

Ms. Brown noted that there are now ten members of the Greening Committee and that local businesses are very excited about the work that is being done.

Mr. Horn thanked Ms. Brown and Mr. Joyner for all the hard work they have put into this project. He noted that this has been a huge success and was very well organized and executed. Mr. Horn also congratulated Ms. Brown on her presentation to the Select Board, which was very well received.

2. Ogunquit Beach Dune Fence - Minimum Replacement, Signs – ConCom.

Mr. Horn noted that he, Mr. Mayer, and Mr. Joyner replaced 30 – 40 “No Trespassing” signs on the dunes. The Town Manager has agreed that the signs are not an effective deterrent and that fencing is needed. He also informed them that currently there is no money, and FEMA money is unavailable. Also the Piping Plovers are nesting which impedes the use of permanent uninterrupted fencing. However the Town Crew will put up approximately 1,500’ of fencing from the Norseman north. The fencing does not go all the way to the first crossover because of the plover nest sites, however stake and twine has been installed in the gaps. The Town has also installed approximately 2000’ of fencing on Moody Beach. When the birds have fledged, and the stake and twine is removed, fencing can be put up in these gaps.

3. Conservation Tracts Berwick Road - Site Walk- Mayer, Joyner, Horn.

Mr. Mayer noted that he, Mr. Joyner, and Mr. Horn walked the Town land behind the new transfer station. During the Site Walk they met up with Mr. Wyman who pointed out that the boundary lines were incorrectly drawn on the new tax maps. Mr. Mayer reviewed the deeds and confirmed that Mr. Wyman is correct. It was also confirmed that there is some land which could be used for conservation however not as much as they had hoped. Still, they are on the right path to putting together a master plan with the town for establishing conservation easements. Mr. Wyman did confirm that he is still interested in doing this with a portion of his property.

Mr. Horn pointed out that someone needs to speak to the Assessor, and Mr. Mayer agreed to do so.

Mr. Horn noted that some of the land between the transfer station and Berwick Road contains wetlands worthy of conservation.

Mr. Mayer agreed and stressed the importance of establishing a green belt in that area.

4. Election Results 6/8/10- Septic Pump-Out & Land Fund.

Mr. Horn confirmed that the Septic Tank Pump-Out Ordinance Amendment passed. He noted that there was some confusion regarding the Conservation Funds Ordinance. It was reported that the Commission did not receive anything, however Mr. Mayer went to the Town Hall and confirmed that the Article was misstated and that the Conservation Funding will be \$10,000.00.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Ogunquit River Corridor Parcels - Mayer, Horn.

Mr. Horn noted that this item will be tabled indefinitely.

2. Ogunquit River Clam Flats-Awaiting Results DMR Survey Review- Leach

Mr. Leach informed the Commission that Ms. Morris from the DMR came down and conducted her inspection. She still has to meet some of the property owners, some of which were not available. Mr. Leach noted that there are still two properties whose hookup to sewer needs to be confirmed.

Mr. Leach noted that he and Phil Pickering, from the Sewer District, conducted a dye test on the Riverbank Road property and confirmed that it is on Town Sewer - not septic. This information needs to be given to the Town Assessor. Mr. Leach agreed to do so and pointed out that the Assessor will have to confirm this with Mr. Pickering.

Mr. Leach informed the Commission that there is yet another issue with DMR. It has been assumed that after the Town submitted their information, DMR would conduct their survey, however Mr. Leach was told by the person conducting the site walk that the DMR can not write their survey report until the end of the year, which means that the Clam Flats can not open during November and December. Mr. Leach informed the Town Manger and asked him to confirm this with the Commissioner. Mr. Leach noted that this report is scheduled to be done every twelve years and is already two years late. It seems unlikely that the FDA will not accept a report written in July instead of December. This being said, things are looking good for at least a January 2011 opening.

Mr. Leach informed the Commission that there is one site which will probably remain closed. DMR Site #7, which corresponds to the HB Leavett Stream lower parking lot site, has been closed for two years and will probably not reopen.

3. Healthy Beaches-Ogunquit River 6/10/10 Testing-Mayer.

Mr. Mayer noted that the special testing has begun for the 2010 season. There have been a few 100+ counts but nothing too high. The last testing produced three sites with 100+ counts, all down at the mouth of the river. An advisory was posted. On June 8th the lifeguards collected samples for a retest, which came back acceptable, and the advisory was lifted.

Ms. Brown asked what counts would close the beach.

Mr. Horn responded that only the Town Manager can close the beach and this would only happen after a series of extraordinarily high test results, a very unlikely scenario.

Mr. Horn stated that he will ask Sarah from Healthy Beaches to retest the hot spot up on Abenaki and that Mr. Mayer and Mr. Pickering both go with her to confirm that everyone is collecting samples from the exact same location.

4. Town Manager's Request for ConCom as 4th July Fireworks Dune Monitors.

Mr. Horn asked if anyone would be willing to work the July 4th Fireworks. People are needed to patrol the beach and keep people off the dunes.

Ms. Brown responded that she will be unavailable that night. Mr. Leach and Mr. Mayer agreed to help.

Mr. Mayer noted that the Town Manager will provide vests and flashlights.

E. REPORTS

1. Friends of Ogunquit River Watershed Meeting/ Landscapers Mailing – Fording

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that Ms. Fording has submitted her resignation from both the Conservation Commission and the Watershed Committee. Mr. Horn noted that Ms. Fording never reached the point where she could get the Watershed Committee to clearly define its goals and objectives.

Mr. Leach asked who will be taking over the Watershed Committee.

Mr. Horn responded that he will inform the Committee members of Ms. Fording's resignation and ask if someone wants to Chair it.

Mr. Mayer pointed out that Ms. Fording was able to bring a variety of people, from several key backgrounds, to the table.

Mr. Horn agreed but pointed that once everyone came to the table the Committee lost its momentum and stalled. They lacked a clear and focused plan of action.

Mr. Leach asked: what kinds of questions should the Committee have been asking. He noted that if the watershed needs to be "cleaned up" they need to specify the pollution type and probable sources.

Mr. Horn agreed that this is the type of question the Committee should have been asking.

It was agreed to let this committee rest for awhile and revisit it later in the year. At that time they might put feelers out to see if anyone is interested in Chairing it.

Ms. Brown pointed out that Ms. Fording sent letters to several local landscapers and some of them were returned marked undeliverable. Ms. Brown asked for a copy of the list as well as a list of those letters which were returned.

Mr. Horn suggested Ms. Brown contact Ms. Fording.

Ms. Brown agreed to do so, she also suggested they contact the Committee members and ask them about their experience on the committee and suggestions for future work.

2. SMRPC Annual Meeting 6/09- Mayer, Horn.

Mr. Horn and Mr. Mayer attended this meeting which focused on green spaces in downtown areas. Mr. Horn noted that there were about 80 people in attendance and that it was very well received.

Mr. Mayer noted that the topic was "revitalizing downtowns" and the first slide they showed was of Main Street in Ogunquit. Mr. Mayer pointed out that there is grant money out there which Ogunquit could go after. He stated that it is too bad that Ogunquit doesn't have a full time town planner who could be researching and applying for these grants.

Mr. Horn agreed, and noted that the town recently passed a sidewalk ordinance. He received a message from Bobbi Treen who asked if the town would be looking at pervious surface treatment for the new sidewalks.

Mr. Mayer asked who is responsible for dealing with sidewalks.

Mr. Horn responded that the Town Manager sends out the instructions to the Department of Public Works.

3. Commission Website Changes-Joyner

Mr. Horn noted that the article he submitted was published in the York Weekly and the Journal Tribune.

It was suggested that links for these types of things might be posted on the website.

F. OTHER

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that the Main Hall is unavailable for the July 15th meeting date. He suggested they hold the July meeting on July 22nd instead. Mr. Mayer suggested they move the time from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Everyone agreed to the change for the summer. The next meeting will take place on Thursday July 22nd at 7:00 p.m. and all meetings for the remainder of the summer will begin at 7:00 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT –

**Ms. Brown Moved to Adjourn at 8:00 p.m.
BROWN/MAYER 4/0 UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully Submitted

Maryann Stacy
Recording Secretary

Approved on August 19, 2010