

**OGUNQUIT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2011**

A. ROLL CALL - 6:00 PM

Mr. Horn called the Roll with the following results:

Members Present: Mike Horn, Chairperson
 Madeline Brown, Secretary
 Doug Mayer
 Everett Leach
 Milt Vargelis
 Bob Joyner (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)

Members Excused: Brad Sterl, Vice Chairperson

B. MINUTES - April 21, 2011

**Mr. Leach Moved to Approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2011 Meeting as Amended.
LEACH/BROWN 5/0 UNANIMOUS**

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Ms. Brown informed the Commission that the mailing will go out to the residents very soon. It will include a letter, information page, and tips page. It will also include the organic landscapers. They will be asking people to reply by e-mail or by calling the Secretary.

Mr. Mayer asked who the e-mails will be sent to.

Ms. Brown responded that she will monitor the e-mails. She suggested they make use of e-mails more often.

Ms. Brown informed the Commission that she received a packet of information from Mrs. Fording regarding pesticides. Ms. Brown agreed that the mailing does not cover pesticide use as much as it might. She suggested they might put together another mailing to cover pesticide use.

2. **Snout Filtration System - Windward Site Visit - Mayer, Horn, Leach**

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that the decision has been made that the Grasshopper Lane location was not a viable test site for the Snout. The alternative site at Windward appears to be a better location. The water tests results from Windward have always been very high. In addition there are three or four catchbasins in Windward. Mr. Horn suggested several Commission members

conduct a site visit to look at the catchbasins, and the property in general to determine whether or not this is a viable test location for the Snout. Mr. Horn confirmed that he spoke with Mr. Simpson at Windward who was very agreeable to the Commission's suggestions and more than willing to work with them.

Mr. Mayer suggested the Commission might accomplish two things at Windward: First, a test for the Snout and the bioskirt; if they find a suitable catch basin with a documented history of test results they can determine whether or not the Snout and Bioskirt are effective, and second, they can learn more about that particular sub-watershed.

Mr. Horn agreed to contact Mr. Simpson to set up the Windward Site Visit.

Mr. Vargelis agreed that Windward would be a very good site for testing the Snout System. He pointed out that beyond Windward is undeveloped land.

3. Ogunquit Beach Dune Fence Installation Progress

Mr. Horn summarized that the Town has agreed to pick up the downed fencing between the Norseman and the 2nd crossover, even though much of the fencing between the 1st and 2nd crossover is missing, which is where most of the populace seems to be. They have 2000 feet of new fencing which was purchased on the Town budget which they will put up as far as they can. In the interim, the piping plovers arrived. It has been confirmed that the Town can get onto the beach with limited vehicle use, they will also post 25 more "keep of the dunes" signs.

Steve Shepard (Department of Public Works) informed Mr. Horn that they are behind on things because of the recent weather, however they will try to get the fence up from the Norseman to the 1st crossover as soon as possible. Mr. Shepard's crew has been trained to spot the birds and he can put his vehicles on the beach.

Mr. Leach pointed out that there is stake-and-twine up almost to the Littlefield Village Crossover.

Mr. Horn confirmed that there are two documented nest sites containing about eight birds.

Mr. Mayer added that the hope is that the baby birds will fledge by July 4th.

4. Conservation Land - Berwick Road Plan to Town Manager - Mayer, Horn

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that they are still waiting to deliver the mapping information to the Town Manager which they will do after the June Town Meeting.

Mr. Mayer suggested this item be tabled until after the meeting. The Commission agreed to do so.

5. 2012 CIP Budget - Land Fund Ballot Mailing

Mr. Horn presented the cards and confirmed that 1250 cards were mailed on May 18th to the residents of Ogunquit. There were some problems with the printer at Copyz & Graphix, however everything worked out in the end and the final cost was approximately \$300.00 for printing and mailing.

Everyone agreed the cards were very well done and attractive.

Ms. Brown asked about the postage, she also noted that the return address was the Town of Ogunquit's not the Commission's.

Mr. Horn responded that they used the Town's postage permit, he suggested they distribute the extra cards around town for people to pick up.

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that the Town Manager explained that if the Select Board and the Budget Review Committee were in agreement as to the \$25,000 figure, and the voters then voted it down it would revert to last year's figure. But because the Select Board voted "yes" and the Budget Review Committee recommended zero, it had to go on the ballot as \$25,000 or zero and there was no reverting to last year's figure. This was a recently passed change to the Town Charter.

Ms. Brown pointed out that this makes sense because otherwise they could never get rid of a line item.

Mr. Vargelis asked if Mr. Mayer inquired as to the possibility of three choices on the ballot.

Mr. Horn responded three choices is illegal.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Water Free Urinals Program – Horn

Mr. Horn informed the Commission members that the Town will be installing the urinals during the week of May 23rd.

2. Ogunquit River Watershed Committee – Vargelis

Mr. Horn noted that he sent Mr. Vargelis a lengthy educational e-mail about the watershed committee project. He pointed out that the primary problem is attracting volunteers and getting the committee up and running.

Mr. Joyner suggested Mr. Vargelis could agree to do what he can during the off season.

Mr. Vargelis responded that he is interested in the Watershed Committee, but time is a problem during the summer months. He would be happy to work on it in the fall but he does not have time in June and July.

Mr. Mayer pointed out that the summer water testing will focus primarily on a few streams, however they will not focus on the Ogunquit River above the falls. That testing is a long term project which they hope Wells take part in. Mr. Mayer suggested that Mr. Vargelis might take the summer months to familiarize himself with the Commission's testing plans and long term objectives and perhaps in the fall he might take more on.

Ms. Brown agreed that the critical part of the Watershed Committee is Well's involvement. She suggested that 50% of the Watershed Committee membership should consist of Wells residents.

Mr. Horn noted that they really need to develop a “mission statement” for the Watershed Committee to clearly outline the goals and working plan, but the first thing they need to do is find good leadership. He asked if Mr. Vargelis could give them one hour a month to work on the Watershed Committee.

Mr. Vargelis agreed that he could give one hour a month for the next couple of months.

Mr. Mayer added that the summer testing will be a learning time for Mr. Vargelis.

Mr. Joyner pointed out that everything ties into the Watershed and there is a lot of coordination required.

Mr. Horn asked Mr. Mayer how he envisions Mr. Vargelis working with the Water Testing Project.

Mr. Joyner noted that Healthy Beaches will be giving a presentation to the Select Board and that this presentation will give Mr. Vargelis a perfect introduction to the water testing project.

Mr. Mayer added that he would like to share with Mr. Vargelis the water testing locations and the strategy for investigating the sources of pollution, as well as the long term focus (the watershed) and short term focus (a few streams and their watersheds). This might be enough for Mr. Vargelis to absorb during the summer. Come fall they can begin discussions about setting up the Watershed Committee.

Mr. Horn suggested a one hour meeting to discuss the water testing and the Watershed Committee. He agreed to schedule this meeting to take place after the Healthy Beaches presentation.

Mr. Joyner asked if they still have the executive summary for presentation to the Select Board before the Healthy Beaches presentation which, in the past, has been somewhat long. He asked if he might prepare something to give to the Select Board.

Mr. Horn agreed this is a very good idea.

3. Pervious Paving Rt. 1 Sidewalk Plans

Mr. Horn informed the Commission that the Town Manager is in the process of getting a grant for the sidewalk paving. The Maine DOT responded that they intend to repave Route One from Wells to York and they asked the Town to share the costs for both projects.

4. SMRPC - Coastal Hazards Presentation 6/23/11

Mr. Horn summarized that the presentation is not mandatory but he suggested the Commission members might attend.

Mr. Joyner noted that this is one of the most interesting presentations to come before the Commission in some time.

The Commission agreed it would be important to specifically invite the Select Board and Planning Board members.

E REPORTS -

1. HEALTHY BEACHES -

Mr. Mayer informed the Commission that Healthy Beaches held tester training. HB will test the beaches every week, however for the rest of the watershed, the Commission will have a smaller testing team which will go out and track pollution up into the watershed. The goal is to get the Code Enforcement Office and perhaps the DEP involved in finding the sources of pollution.

Mr. Mayer noted that Healthy Beaches will be conducting a pilot program for microbial tracing where they can determine whether the pollution is from a human or non-human source. They have decided to do this pilot program in York rather than Ogunquit.

Mr. Horn pointed out that this type of testing is very expensive and Healthy Beaches may have selected York because of the serious problems York has at Short Sands.

Mr. Horn commended Mr. Mayer for pushing to reorganize the testing protocol with a more intense attempt to locate the sources of pollution.

Mr. Vargelis noted that the numbers of migratory water birds in the Ogunquit River have dramatically increased: swans, heron, mallards, loons, and countless seagulls. He noted that there is nothing that can be done about wildlife and he suggested they might save testing costs by testing only for human contaminants.

Mr. Horn responded that if they go upstream and find hotspots in the tributaries, they can either find a human source or eliminate human contributions. He reiterated that it would be best to respond to Mr. Vargelis' questions at a more focused smaller get-together.

Mr. Mayer noted the use of Optical Brightener Testing to eliminate human sources. He also pointed out that they are taking a hard look at failing septic systems.

Mr. Joyner also noted that the Sewer District and Code Enforcement Office have used dye testing and other test types to pinpoint sources of pollution.

Mr. Mayer concluded that the water testing will be more specialized this summer.

Mr. Leach pointed out that the shellfish beds have a bad section, and there has been talk of following the contamination up two different streams. He suggested they Shellfish Commission might find the funding to do the microbial tracing. They need to know whether they have to chase geese off the clam flats or if they have a failing septic system somewhere upstream. He would like to follow the York pilot project.

F. OTHER -

Ms. Brown noted that she has attempted to invite the consultant to come speak to the Commission and she has not heard back from him. She will continue to try to contact him.

Mr. Mayer and Mr. Horn each shared some statistical information.

Mr. Leach noted that the pesticide ordinance will be on the June ballot. He suggested someone might want to follow up and confirm that all the appropriate approvals have been obtained, particularly DEP review.

Mr. Horn confirmed that everything is all set.

G. ADJOURNMENT –

**Ms. Brown Moved to Adjourn at 7:15 p.m.
BROWN/JOYNER 6/0 UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully Submitted

Maryann Stacy
Recording Secretary

Approved June 23, 2011