



OGUNQUIT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 17, 2019

6:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Doug Mayer.

Present: Doug Mayer, Pamela Sawyer, Val Kaufmann, Laura Brogan, George Cundiff, Patience Prescott Sundaresan

Excused Absence: Bill Lee

Minutes

Motion to accept Minutes from August 15, 2019 without amendments made by Val Kaufmann, second Laura Brogan – approved

Motion to accept Minutes from September 19, 2019 with amendments made by Patience Prescott, second Laura Brogan - approved

New Business

Discussion of Town of Ogunquit's Law Firm opinion of non-resident being voting members of ConCom

- Chair Doug Mayer read Section 905 of the Town Charter which takes precedence over the Title XIII – Conservation Commission; of the Town Municipal Code
- Select Board to make any other future determinations

Ongoing Business

Status of Signage on the Beach: Dunes signs, No Dogs signs. Update

- Still only 3 “No Trespassing” Signs on entire beach and estuary. Suggestion was made to place them on the same posts as the “numbered sign makers” on the beach.
- ConCom member suggested that a “No Dog” sign be placed on River Road near the Clam Flat sign

Beach water testing - Update

- Question was raised regarding if water testing was still being done by Healthy Beaches since Lifeguards are gone, or is FB Environmental is still testing or another State entity.
- George Cundiff stated that historically there have been high bacterial readings along the river in the vicinity of the Dunes and Colonial Inn by the clam flats secondary to a large population of geese and ducks.
- The question was raised if there was the possibility of PFAs in the sand in the clam flats. Val Kaufmann thought that up until the late 1980's early 1990's the Sewer Treatment Plant was still discharging "gray water" into the river - it is now discharged out into the ocean. Plus, Beach Plum Farm had been a dump site in the 1970's and prior to that date. George stated that the clams have a bivalve system which allows them to constantly filter sand out.
- It was also discussed if DNA testing needed to be done in certain areas and if there was money for this in the Town budget. The question was then asked where would this be done and by whom. Members of the Commission stated that there many "old" dumps sites in OGT and wondered if any were near tributary's along Route 1 that ran into the river.

Planning Board Requests

Doug Mayer mentioned building projects that were coming up before the Planning Board that may need input from the ConCom.

New Business

- Chairman Doug Mayer reminded the Commission members that elections for a new Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk would occur in January.
- Pamela Sawyer suggested that a workshop on "reading building plans to address/look for Conservation issues" might be given by the CEO - if the Commission felt it was needed.
- Doug was able to find a list of "Open Space Land" public or privately owned that Patience Prescott offered to update. This list could be used in investigating tracts of land that the Town would like to purchase as Conservation land.
- Commission to begin the discussion of a list of goals to undertake in the next year and beyond at the November meeting.
- Question from Peter Kahn (public comment); "Did the ConCom have By Laws?" – Doug Mayer to follow-up

Adjournment: 8:45 p.m.