

**Ogunquit Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 19, 2018 Dunaway Center, 6:30 pm**

**Present:** Bill Lee, Pamela Sawyer, Doug Mayer, Madeline Mooney, Select Board Liaison to the Conservation Commission (ConCom)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Vice Chair Doug Mayer.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence for Bill Baker, Past Chair

**Approval of March 15, 2018 Minutes:** Cindy Douglass made a motion to accept the March 15, 2018 minutes, seconded by Pamela Sawyer, motion carried.

**Ongoing Business:**

**1. Trail Clean-Up May 2, 2018 Logistics**

The Select Board voted on April 17<sup>th</sup> to approve the clearing and establishment of a connector / loop trail near the northern boundary of the Ogunquit Town Woods. The proposed trail would expand the existing trail system and allow people access to the Town Woods without abusing private land. The Select Board received a packet of information outlining the clean-up, map of the area and the volunteers; Liberty Mutual employees, members of the ConCom, Bob Win (Selectman) and additional volunteers if needed.

**2. Signage on the Beach regarding Dogs**

There are still no signage delineating the dates when dogs are allowed on the beach. Members of the ConCom have seen many dogs on the main beach and along the river and estuary side. Calls have been made to the Police Department people have been made aware that as of April 1<sup>st</sup> no dogs are allowed on the beach and never along the river.

**New Business: Chair**

The ConCom is need of a new Chair person. Doug Mayer, Vice Chair has agreed to become the Interim Chair at this time. The committee is also asking for suggestions for new members to join. Margaret Weeks and Bill Woods were suggested as possible candidates.

**Discussion Points with Selectperson Mooney and status of Bill Baker's report to Board.**

- **Raise fines for trespassing on the dunes**

The Committee is requesting the fine to be raised to \$250. Ms. Mooney investigating if this needs a public hearing and if it needs to be on a Town Warrant or can the Select Board vote. Signs must also be replaced.

- **Raise fines for illegal dogs on the beach (after April 1<sup>st</sup>)**

*MM note: Dozens of dogs have been on the beach both on the ocean and river/estuary sides since April. This past weekend was no exception and there were 200 cars in the main beach lot. Owners say the signage was confusing. Make news signs for all entrances that include a higher fine, dates, and no dogs ever on river side. Maintain with plastic pick-up bags. The Committee did not agree on a specific fine, but consensus was it needed to be raised.*

- **Fencing must be placed protecting the dunes with proper fines (think speeding fines).**

*MM note: When is this scheduled? The tides and wind are starting to replenish the dunes, and sand is clinging to the snow fences that are still in place. We don't want to disrupt that. Fines should be \$250. Snow fencing should be at the toe of the dune.*

- **Proper policing of the beach beginning with the season's start.**

*MM note: Enforce fines and beach rules by have a Community Service Officer or the like at the main beach.*

- **The entrance to the main beach just north of the Norseman must be easily used for high tide times at the beach. It needs work.**

*MM note: I believe this is all town land. The Town has placed a "Public Access" sign for beachgoers to walk behind the Norseman, especially for use during high tides. This path needs lots of clean-up and filling. However, I have a potential concern that we should discuss with the Conservation Commission asap. Since their meeting, I saw that the debris on the path is from the ocean which carried it during the storms and is beyond the dune line. We need to consider if this may lead to a potential breach in the future. (I will send the Committee this email and ask for their input for starters.)*

- A link to Maine Healthy Beaches should be placed on the town front page once that becomes active (June 1?).
- Two of our awards have not been mounted for display; they have been in the town manager's office since before Tom Fortier left.

### **Question:**

A question was asked as to who monitors the septic systems on citizens property, is there a regulation stating when septic systems need to be inspected (how often) and who monitors this. Discussion needs to take place with CEO.

**Environmental Award:**

It was decided by the committee that the Environmental Award presentation should be postponed until the Fall. There was discussed as to giving this award to Bill Baker, post humorously.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Next meeting is May 17, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Dunaway Center

Respectively Submitted: Pamela Sawyer, Conservation Commission