

Minutes of the Owls Head Conservation Commission - Monday, March 25th, 2013

The meeting took place at the Owls Head Community Building and started at 7:00 p.m. Commission Members Kathryn DeMarderosian, Deena Carafelli, Beth Long, Diane Harrison and Jeanne Johnson were present as were several members of the public.

Kathryn passed around an attendance sheet and had everyone make introductions. Kathryn updated the group about several important matters. The first item is that the Owls Head Village Common project is now under the umbrella of the Owls Head Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission can accept charitable gifts which gives tax deductible status for those donations. The Commission will also now be eligible for grants and other resources available to town conservation projects. Kathryn thanked Deena for coming up with this idea and bringing it up with the Town's Selectmen.

The next step is that we will need to bring the project before the town at a special town meeting for acceptance of the property, which will be contingent upon our raising funds to purchase it. A short discussion followed as to the timing of this initiative. Most felt that it would be better to approach the Town now, rather than get into the fundraising effort and have the town decide not to accept the property. Once that is achieved, we can go forward with our fundraising campaign with confidence and certainty. The group felt that a small article should be placed in the Free Press to let people know about the project. If possible, the date for the special town meeting should be listed in the article. Deena mentioned that Eric Davis has designed a Facebook page for the project and we could launch that at the same time.

Marcel Polark, director of the Maine Association of the Conservation Commissions has offered to meet with our group. The group felt that it will be most helpful to meet with him as soon as possible. Kathryn also talked about the stewardship of the property once it has been purchased. Annette Naegel of the George's River Land Trust has also been an invaluable resource for our group and has once again offered her assistance with the project.

The second major development is that we, as the OHCC, have entered into an agreement with Karen Rizcalla of St. George Realty to serve as our buyer's agent in the purchase of the Buckminster property. Kathryn reminded the group that these are sensitive negotiations with the sellers and ask that we keep the details of any offer confidential.

Deena asked the group to make recommendations of any restrictions that need to be in place for the purpose of acceptance at town meeting or go with the deed for the property. Some of these restrictions could be:

- No hunting
- The property cannot be sold by the town without permission of the OHCC
- No overnight camping
- Dogs must remain on leash
- The property cannot be developed in any way.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided to investigate what other restrictive provisions are in place for other town properties. Diane Harrison agreed to do some research into this matter and

will report back to the commission at the next meeting. Kathryn asked if people had any other thoughts on allowable and restrictions for the property to please contact Deena.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Johnson
Secretary
Owls Head Conservation Commission