

Minutes from the Owls Head Conservation Commission meeting held on 5/02/2016.

Members Present: Kathryn DerMarderosian, Deena Carafelli, Beth Long, Dick Matlack and Jeanne Johnson. Annette Naegel from the George River Land Trust was also in attendance. The meeting was held at the Owls Head Village Library and began at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting started with a short discussion regarding the parking at the Plaisted Preserve. Beth is going to talk to Frank Ross of the Owls Head Fire Department to discuss the possibility of using some of the new parking that is being created for the fire department or parking along North Shore Drive next to the Grange building. Many of the committee expressed safety concerns about street parking. While this topic remains important, the group really would like to focus on the trail creation as the first order of business.

Beth presented a new version of the site map and has marked both the proposed trail and the boundaries of the property at the site over the past few weeks. The group thanked Beth for her commitment to the project and her expertise in creating the trail. Annette mentioned that the group should adopt some trail design guidelines including how wide the trail should be, how much of the brush or undergrowth should be cut for use and enjoyment of the area. The group is concerned about the various brush piles that are located along the properties borders and will encourage neighbors to not bring any more brush onto the property. The group discussed various methods to deal with the existing piles including leaving them there, designing the trail away from those areas as well as having a potential burning of the piles perhaps on the beach next winter.

Trail Creation: Beth felt that it would be best to start at the water's edge and work our way towards the road for the beginning of the trail clearing. Annette cautioned that it would be helpful to identify individuals that might lead a group rather than let volunteers clear areas on their own without any supervision. The best way to get started is to have an initial walkthrough of the property and identify what needs to be done and the best ways to complete the tasks. A date of Thursday, May 19th was chosen. Interested volunteers will be invited to meet at 5:30 p.m. at the property. Kathryn will send out an email to the group that filled out the questionnaires at the town meeting.

Budget for the project: Annette is working with Melissa to identify potential foundations and funders for grants. They will use the budget that Annette had developed earlier in the year for the project. Kathryn reiterated that she wanted GRLT to know that we appreciate all the support that they have given to the project and we will take our commitment to raise stewardship funds very seriously in the near future.

Signage – Ken is still trying to find someone to make the sign for the property.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 6th, 2016 at the Owls Head Village Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Johnson
Secretary