

**Owls Head Resurrects Conservation Commission -  
First Order of Business to create the Owls Head Village Green**

In March, the Owls Head Board of Selectmen voted to re-establish the town's Conservation Commission, which last was active in the late 1990's. Commissioners are Kathryn Dermarderosian, Beth Long, Jeanne Johnson, Deena Carafelli and Ken Wexler with John Ware and Diane Johnson appointed as alternate members

Conservation Commissions in Maine do many things. Members may organize community residents to build trails, work to control invasive species, develop open space plans, educate people about pesticide use, or protect their town's special places. The commission may also hold responsibility for maintenance of any public parks or for acquisition of land as public space for the use of town residents.

One of the first tasks of the new Owls Head Conservation Commission plans to embark on is the purchase of the old Billy Buckminster property on South Shore Drive in the center of Owls Head for use as a town green space. Billy Buckminster was known throughout the midcoast area as a collector. For many years his three properties across the street from the Owls Head General Store featured an assortment of old bathtubs, car parts, metal pieces, an array that some considered trash and others found to be treasures. Billy remained an avid wildlife lover and custodian of the land. After he died, the seven acres were sub-divided and promptly put up for sale.

“Because the land is right there next to the General Store and Post Office, we think that it would be ideal as a public common where residents could meet, stroll and take in the land's peacefulness and natural beauty throughout the year,” said Kathryn DerMardarosian, chair of the Conservation Commission. “Owls Head, unlike Camden or St. George, has very little publicly accessible land available for everyone's use.”

Much discussion has taken place concerning the eventual use of the property once it has been purchased. The consensus is that whatever it becomes, the land will be left mostly untouched and used for outdoor recreation. This can include town activities such as the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, dog walking area, picnic spot and skating on the fire pond. Perhaps in better weather an outdoor art show or a farmers market. Let your imagination go!

The Commission is charged with raising funds to procure the property and for future maintenance. If you would like to make a tax deductible gift to make this dream come true contact the Town of Owls Head at 594-7434

