

Minutes from the Owls Head Conservation Commission meeting held on 10/03/2016.

Members Present: Kathryn DerMarderosian, Deena Carafelli, Beth Long, Jim Devery, Mary Ellen Thro and Jeanne Johnson. The meeting was held at the Owls Head Village Library and began at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting started with a short synopsis of the Selectmen's meeting that Deena attended earlier in the evening. While Deena was in front of the Selectmen on another matter, they asked her some questions on the request of Bill Leppanen of using some of his budget(ditching)to dig the holes to place the sign posts at the Plaisted Preserve. While the Selectmen are supportive of the project, they felt they needed to do more research into what funds could be used for this purpose. The matter was tabled until their next meeting.

Trail Creation: Beth and Bill Long and Jim Devery recently walked the property and are coming up with a game plan for the first trail creation day. They would like to start with a small group of three to five volunteers. They are targeting this Saturday or Sunday. They will start on the water side of the property and work their way back to the street. Kathryn thought it was important to check in with the Trekkers group. Beth thought one project for the group would be to pull out invasive species. Beth will contact Dick Carver who has offered his "chain saw" services to the Commission in the past.

Index: The purpose of this project is to look into Town-owned pieces of property and photograph and document them. They would be put into a binder and kept in the town offices. Jim, Beth and Bill had chosen to look at three pieces and start a draft of how the index would look. The group felt that it was a really good start. Information would include a photograph, map, parcel number and description of the property.

Secretary: The group is still in need of replacing Jeanne Johnson as Secretary

Role of the Conservation Commission: The rest of the meeting was taken up with the discussion about the mission of the Owls Head Conservation Commission. The group felt that as we define our role and look at specific duties of the commission, this may become clearer as to how to deal with warrant articles. Jim passed around a synopsis of several towns' mission statements for their conservation commissions. (Jim emailed this to all of the commission members later that night). Most members present felt that the Camden definition was very concise and we could come up with something similar. We also tried to see how members viewed the term "open space". Some people felt that it dealt with property that didn't contain any structures, while others thought it meant that it was a cleared piece of land. Still others felt it meant that a piece of property was not to be developed in any way. The group should think about this and come up with the commission's definition when we discuss "Open Space". Perhaps the GRLT might be helpful with the definition.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 7th, 2016 at the Owls Head Village Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Johnson
Secretary