

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
March 1, 2023

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER 5:05pm

ROLL CALL

Everett Leach
Jennifer Walker
Wendy Levine
George Cundiff
Anne Gallo
George Blum (absent)

In attendance
Tyler McOskar

PRESENTATIONS

Suzanne Williams and Jane Green from HeRO (Healthy Rivers Ogunquit). They shared a detailed slide show of their Summer 2022 Green Crab Project. Major highlights included:

- Green crabs are eating our shellfish
- They are destroying the marsh habitat
- One female can produce 150,000 eggs!
- Over 4000 crabs were gathered at 4 separate locations
- Wells High School and visitors to Ogunquit trapped them in cages and nets
- July and August produced the best results
- Crabs were composted and sent to the transfer station

CONCOM agreed to help with this project in 2023.

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

- The first meeting for a new project is to review the application and schedule a site visit and public hearing if needed,
- CONCOM voted 5-0 to meet twice each month on the first and third Wednesdays at 5pm.

This will allow us time to prepare for input to the Planning Board.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. PLAYHOUSE PARKING LOTS

- There is concern about the amount of runoff from the large parking lot and the
- Ground under where the tent stood as the land is so close to the river.
- Tyler will try to schedule a site visit to discuss remediation.

2. PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGE. (147-5)

- The current ordinance disallows the removal of all natural resources on public land

Except where authorized by the Town Manager.

-After much discussion it was agreed that “in an emergency situation” should be added. It is too late to place this on the June ballot.

Wendy will write up a proposal and send it to the Planning Board.

3. STORM DRAINS

-Public Works is in charge of storm drains.

-Last year HeRO stenciled the streets to remind people that runoff goes to the rivers.

-Unfortunately they were washed away quickly.

-More permanent paint could be used. Stencils are still available.

-An alternative would be metal markers attached to the drains.

-Follow up with Public Works.

4. FB ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

-CONCOM is now responsible for water testing.

-There is \$12,000 in the Town Budget for testing.

-Tyler will reach out to FB for recommendations.

-May include swale gardens and/or catch basins, etc.

-Chip recommended soil samples and will research this.

NEW BUSINESS

1. EARTH DAY April 22, 2023 Town Cleanup proposed. Passed 5-0

-Jennifer volunteered to organize this project.

2. BOSTON LAND WALK

-We have been invited to take a one mile walk to look at the proposed trails.

-We can offer any Monday or Friday to do this.

-Chip will reach out to Great Works to schedule a time.

-Chip believes that the ADA trail should be behind the dog park as it is already cleared and has easy and ample parking.

3. MAINE ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

-Wendy reached out to them with some questions and found them to be a wealth of knowledge for us. She recommended that we pay an annual fee of \$100.00 for the Town of Ogunquit to be members. This passed 3-2.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Margie Katz (chair of Sustainability) shared some of her ideas via zoom. Her comments are incorporated in the minutes above.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Broms Levine, Secretary

