

Owls Head Conservation Commission

Annual Report 2016

The Owls Head Conservation Commission is pleased to announce that the proposal for residents to accept a 10+ acre parcel of land for the purposed of conservation received approval at a special town meeting. The commission also proposed that a conservation easement be placed on the property to be held by Georges River Land Trust which was also approved. The plan is to develop walking trails for public use. The property will bear the name of Plaisted Preserve in honor of Tom Plaisted, long time resident of Owls Head, and uncle of our generous donor, Todd Swinton.

Plans to develop the trail are underway. You will soon see a sign posted bearing the name of “Plaisted Preserve” on North Shore Drive. Thanks to the Wexlers for their donation of the sign and the kiosk to follow. The trail is not complete, so if you decide to walk on the property, stout shoes and sturdy clothing are advised. The work on the trail thus far includes identification of trees, vegetation, wetlands and the like. Beth Long, member of the commission and landscape designer has laid out a proposed trail. Annette Naegel, program director for GRLT and Melissa Waterman have kindly been pursuing grants to support the work. A grant is currently ready for submission, subject to the approval of the select board.

The OHCC continues to seek grants and donations towards a beautification project to construct a wall and shrubbery around the fire pond. Inquiries are ongoing as to the required specifications of the project, as well as the costs. Again, Frank Ross is apprised of the effort and said it will not interfere with OHFD access. The OHCC meets the first Monday of the month at 6PM, OH Library, South Shore Drive. The commission invites all who are interested to join the group and work on the many issues that speak to our community today. Future plans include information sharing through lectures and workshops, completion of the Plaisted Preserve Trail, work on the Fire Pond beautification project, and a continued effort to preserve open spaces to provide access and enjoyment of the citizens of Owls Head. The OHCC also serves to make recommendations to town committees with regard to environmental issues they might consider when making decisions.

Special thanks to Georges River Land Trust for their ongoing support of the OHCC, and most specifically, Annette Naegel, program director, who attends our monthly meetings, and provides information, contacts and wise counsel.

Thanks to Deena Carafelli who kindly opens and prepares the OH Library for monthly meetings.

The OHCC accepts donations which can be made to the town of Owls Head. Please remember to assign your donation to the OHCC.

The Owls Head Conservation Commission is a registered member of the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions and is thereby eligible for all benefits therein.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn DerMarderosian
Conservation Commission Chair