

Owls Head Conservation Commission

Annual Report 2017

The Owls Head Conservation Commission is now in its fifth year as an active and viable organization. We continue to grow and learn through our experiences. Happily, after a long bout with DOT (Maine Department of Transportation) we gained approval to erect the Plaisted Preserve sign on North Shore Drive. A few trees had to be removed to accommodate a small parking area and a kiosk. We hope to have the work completed by the fall. Trail work is ongoing. The trail is marked, and visitors are welcome. Sturdy shoes or boots are recommended as foot bridges are not yet in place. OHCC invites you to volunteer for trail clearing, invasive species removal, and foot bridge work.

Together with Georges River Land Trust, the town of Owls Head received a grant from the Fields Pond Foundation to be used for trail development and stewardship funds.

Thanks to Melissa Waterman and Annette Naegel (GRLT) for preparing the grant. This year the commission kicked off its first in a series of lectures. Entomologist Bob Emmons presented a program about ticks at the Owls Head Transportation Museum.

Our next lecture will be presented in October by Wildlife Society Award winner Annie Kassler on her work with bats.

OHCC and Georges River Land Trust (GRLT) hosted a Ham and Bean Supper which helped to raise funds for the commission's continuing work and stewardship funds for Plaisted Preserve. We owe a debt of gratitude to the OH Fire Dept, Mussel Ridge Historical Society, the OH Garden Club, and many others for their many contributions to a fine meal. Thanks to the Owls Head Elementary School's fifth grade for their incredible art work that adorned the walls., The paintings and drawings depicted scenes of Plaisted Preserve. Special thanks to art teacher Richard Wehnke. We hope this will be the first of many collaborations with the school including visits to the Preserve.

Finally, we are excited about all that is happening in Owls Head with regard to conservation. The OH Comprehensive Plan clearly states the desire of residents to create more walking trails and to have greater access to open space. Now, in addition to Plaisted Preserve and the Lighthouse Road waterfront property, residents are also invited to enjoy the lovely trails of Ash Point Preserve, a recent gift given to GRLT through the generosity of Susan St. John.

The OHCC is a member of the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. We were invited to present information regarding the Plaisted Preserve project. We in turn heard of many other exciting projects throughout the state. The MEACC is a great resource for us as we continue to serve as your conservation commission.

Our meetings are open and occur the first Monday of the month at 6PM. We meet at the Owls Head Library on South Shore Drive thanks to the kindness of librarian Deena Carafelli. Please consider joining us. Donations to the OHCC can be made directly to the Town of Owls Head with a designation to the OHCC.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn DerMarderosian