

Owls Head Conservation Commission

Annual Report 2019

MISSION STATEMENT

The Owls Head Conservation Commission seeks to preserve and protect the natural resources of Owls Head, and to advise, educate and make recommendations to its residents and to the town's governing bodies. The commission works to create opportunities for residents to interact with the natural world, thus fostering life long stewardship to retain the natural beauty of Owls Head for future generations.

This spring, the OHCC sponsored the Oh Roadside Clean-Up.. Outfitted with road safety vests, trash bags, gloves and a route plan, a sturdy few braved the rains and gathered over 15 bags of roadside refuse. Please help us to curb littering by sharing with others the ill effects it has on our land and the wildlife we so enjoy. Thanks to the Owls Head School for offering the school parking lot as a central meeting place, and to Lowes in Thomaston, for supplying the safety vests.

As members of the **Maine Association of Conservation Commissions**, we attended a MEACC conference in Brunswick along with commissions around Maine who shared the many projects in which they are involved ranging from promoting clean water practices to creating pesticide ordinances to protect bee and wildlife populations. (Without pollination we lose our ability to produce food such as fruit trees and ground crops.) Amanda Shearin from ME Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife presented "**Climate Change Impacts to and Adaptive Strategies for Coastal and Inland Communities.**" Drawn from her participation in an international conference held in Canada, she shared a host of information which included the many positive steps communities can take to meet the challenges of climate change.

Walking Trail plans for the Harbor Park Project are ongoing. At present there is a walking trail around the pond. Since it is a fire pond, Chief Ross requests that parking be prohibited in front of the pond. A parking lot will be coming soon, located a short walking distance from the pond, and the plan is to have a walking trail from the parking lot that will lead to the pond and beyond. Thanks to Dick Carver for all his work on the Harbor Park Project.

Plaisted Preserve now boasts a full circle trail thanks to the hard work and perseverance of Beth and Bill Long. We are pleased to report that the preserve is well used by many. Bittersweet is still persistent and Beth could use some help eradicating this aggressive invasive vine. Volunteers needed. Watch for work dates.

The annual yard sale was a success and helped to increase the budget by several hundred dollars. Thanks to all those who supported the event through donations and purchases.

Bringing pertinent information to the population of Owls Head is of utmost importance to the commission. In that vein, we will continue to offer opportunities through presentations and field projects to better acquaint town residents with the current environmental issues that affect us all. Recently we invited Annette Naegel, program director for Georges River Land Trust, to share information from the Sierra Club Conference on Climate Change which was very informative. Watch for future events listed on the town website and local bulletin boards.

This year, Jim Devery and Stuart Rich were sworn in as voting members of the commission. We invite all who are interested to attend monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month, 6PM at the Town Library on South Shore Drive. Meeting the growing concerns of climate change and implementing the positive steps we can take to meet ensuing challenges, will be our primary goal in the months and years to come. Again, consider becoming a member of the OHCC. You are needed.

Jim Devery, Kathryn DerMarderosian, Beth Long, Stuart Rich, Catherine Wiejaczka, Richard Matlack, Kelly Bell, Lauren Swartzbaugh, John Ware, and Ken Wexler.