

OHCC Meeting Minutes Thursday January 6, 2022

1. Approved November minutes.
2. **Select Board** – Nothing to report.
3. **Treasurer's Report** – *Robin White* reported that \$1000 check was sent as our 'good faith' deposit for the purchase of the land to expand Plaisted.
4. **Web Site Report** – *Stuart Rich* reported 100 plus website hits last month.

Review of 2021 Activities

1. **Sea Level Rise** (Robin White)

Robin explained that the Town's principle flooding vulnerability is a section of South Shore Road near Cripple Creek. The risk at this location is significant but there are no simple remedies. She will approach the Select Board later this year to encourage them to complete the Sea Level Rise Checklist. In the interim, the CC plans to update the attendees of the SLR info session and explain where the process sits.

2. **Web Site** (Stuart Rich)

Stuart explained that his work with the conservation commission's web pages has pointed out limitations in the way he is able to present data due to the implementation of the Town site. The group discussed the idea of setting up a site (new domain) independent from the Town. Lauren Swartzbaugh offered guidance on the cost of such an approach; Kathryn DerMarderosian noted that the Town had previously indicated a preference that the CC material be part of the Town's site.

3. **Safe Pesticide Use** (Lauren Swartzbaugh)

Lauren updated the group on her work on the pesticide use project. She offered several insights.

- Information describing safe pesticide use are available at the OH Library.
- Develop an acronym to describe the goals of the safe pesticide use project to help communicate the objectives to town make residents.
- Use the [nextdoor](#) community site to increase the number of residents we reach.

The group discussed having a website that residents could access to color their property to indicate their commitment to safe pesticide practices. There was also a discussion about staffing the OH library to assist residents with the safe pesticide materials.

Robin White suggested that we may be able to reach additional residents thru the garden club. Laura Anthony is a good contact.

Beth Long contacted Maine DEP to investigate the possibility of running a hazardous waste pick-up that would provide OH residents a safe means for disposal of pesticides.

Lauren also discussed her out-of-pocket expenses relating to the production of material for the

pesticide project and for the Plaisted expansion. Our Treasurer, Robin White, explained that we should get estimates for planned expenses; she will see that the appropriate warrant is created and sent to the Select Board before proceeding with a purchase.

4. **Plaisted** (Beth Long)

Beth updated the group on the status of the hanging tree limbs from the fall storm. She also described ideas for a ‘fairy garden’ walk and a repeat of the very successful Halloween pumpkin walk.

Annette Naegel reminded the group to reach out to the outdoor leadership group at the Mid-Coast School of Technology to see if they might volunteer time to help with Plaisted projects. She also offered to coordinate the assistance of the Georges River Land Trust trail team to assist with our ongoing maintenance efforts.

5. **Record Keeping** (Jim Devery)

Jim Devery indicated that he will continue to produce agendas and minutes for the commission. He will also provide the Town hard copies of the documents that Kathryn DerMarderosian asked him to backup.

Other Topics

1. **Plaisted Fund Raising** – Robin White indicated that she will be applying for a grant to augment our fund raising efforts. The fund raising committee will be meeting in early January.
2. **Light Pollution** - Kathryn DerMarderosian will investigate best practices to minimize light pollution. For background see [International Dark-Sky Association](#).
3. The group discussed changing the meeting location to the OH Library; Lauren Swartzbaugh will investigate. A final decision on changing the location is pending.

Attendees

Kathryn DerMarderosian

Jim Devery

Beth Long

Annette Naegel

Stuart Rich

Lauren Swartzbaugh

Robin White

Mary Bumiller

Next Meeting: Thursday February 3, 2021 6:00 PM at Town Hall