

Thomaston Conservation Commission

Agenda

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

1. Call the Meeting to Order.
2. Approve 4/10/24 Meeting Minutes.
3. Old Business:
 - After-action report of Thomaston Town-wide Cleanup Day, May 4, 2024.
 - Update on Thomaston Town Ordinance for June Town Meeting.
 - Finance Update.
4. Project Updates:
 - Community Garden Survey (Peter)
 - Greenway (Marcy)
 - Index of private and public open spaces (Kathleen)
 - Wildflowers at the Mall (All)
 - Honoring Wabanaki Heritage: education, demonstration garden, signage, more? (All)
5. Associate Member(s) Reports (John Fancy)
 - Wastewater Management
 - Climate Change/Resilience projects
 - Waterfront Master Plan
 - Water Sampling/testing of St. George River and its tributaries with Shellfish Committee and Kara George
 - Dredging and what to do with salt and silt – Weskeag Marsh?
6. New Business:
 - Associate Members
 - Propose that the Tree Warden become an Associate Member of the Thomaston Conservation Commission. (See attached.)
 - Tree and Shrub Planting
 - Decide location.
 - Set date for planting work party
 - Stewardship of Mall, Kiln Park, Mill River Park, and Town Beach
 - Updating Select Board on Conservation Commission priorities.
7. Set Date and Time of Next Meeting.
8. Adjourn

NOTE: Today is World Biodiversity Day!

Maine Statute

3282. Appointment and duties of tree wardens

The municipal officers of municipalities which have not appointed conservation commissioners under [subchapter II](#) may annually appoint one or more tree wardens who have the care and control of all public shade trees upon and along the highways and in the parks of the municipality and all streets within any village limits. They shall enforce all laws relating to the preservation of those trees.

After Action Report

Thomaston Town-wide Cleanup

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Before the Event

- Conservation Commission Meeting on April 10th approved sponsorship of Thomaston Town-wide Cleanup Event and the expenditures associated with it.
- Expenses were \$400.34:
 - Purchase Order obtained from Finance Director for Lowe's for the purchase of supplies.
 - Lowe's supplies purchased: grabbers, vests, yard signs, gloves, bags, hand sanitizer, wipes. Total: \$246.34.
 - Order placed with Adventure Advertising for 7 yard signs for the day of the event. Purchase orders completed for deposit and final expense totaling \$154.00. (Note: signs can be used for future years because they say "TODAY" without a date.)
- Other non-reported expenses included trifold poster, stamps, stickers, markers, glue sticks, balloons, pinwheels, copying flyers, and more.
- Coordinated with Lowe's Assistant Manager, Richard, who helped with locate items during purchasing trip, and gave 25% discount and did not charge tax.
- Donations: Spears Ace Hardware donated 3 boxes of contractor bags.
- Created flyers and distributed them to Town staff and downtown businesses, and news organizations.
- Email and hand-deliver flyers to Oceanside Middle School, Thomaston Grammar School, and Oceanside High School.
- Coordinated with Transfer Station about the Cleanup Event.
- Visited "cleanup events" on April 20th in Rockland and South Thomaston.
- Met with Public Works to ask advice on focus areas, and possibility of borrowing supplies. They donated grabbers, vests, "Litter Pick-up Ahead" signs and left in vestibule of Police Headquarters.
- Met with Police Department to coordinate safety detail on DEXTER Street. (They posted on their Facebook page.)
- Traveled around town to photograph focus areas and sent to Pen-Bay Pilot.
- Contacted Free Press, Courier Gazette, and PenBay Pilot to advertise and promote the event.
- Coordinated with Flipside Coffee for possible concession stand. They weren't staffed to accommodate but did offer complimentary beverages to volunteers.
- Tri-fold poster created to direct volunteers and promote Conservation Commission. Focus areas included: Dexter Street, Walmart (front and back), parks, cemetery, schools, and neighborhoods. Avoid state-owned roads (in front of Dragon) for safety reasons.
- Sign-up sheets created.

- Friday before the event: posted 2 yard signs advertising event posted at the Mall and Erin Street.
- Obtained table from Thomaston Grammar School. Brandon Allen picked it up and delivered it to site behind Business Block.
- Coordinated use of pickup truck with trailer to collect trash and take to Transfer Station.

Day of the Event

- Two hours before: posted 7 yard signs at Thatcher Street and Mill River Park stop sign, Water and Wadsworth Street, Transfer Station, Island at Old County Road and New County Road, McDonald's lawn at Dexter Street and New County Road intersection, downtown at Main and Elm Streets and at Thomaston Green Park.
- Visit Transfer Station for one last reminder.
- 45 minutes before: pickup Public Works supplies from Police Headquarters and check in with Flipside about complimentary drinks showing them stamp and stickers.
- 30 minutes before: setup table with tri-fold, sign-up sheets, and supplies.
- 9:45: Chalen Mitchell arrived with pickup truck and trailer, Marcy Bonner, and Chris Farthing arrived to help with cleanup effort.
- 10:00 Officer Tom Eagar of Thomaston Police Department came to escort and provide safety detail for Dexter Street.
- 10:00 – 10:40: 8 of the 13 people signed in, picked up supplies and went to various sites.
- 10:40 – 2:00:
 - 4 more people came.
 - Earlier crews returned and loaded trash into cart.
 - One Select Board member, Sandy Moore, dropped by towards the end and offered advice. (Did not participate in cleanup.)
- 2:00 – 3:00:
 - Chalen Mitchell and Marcy Bonner took cartful of collected trash to the Transfer Station.
 - Marcy Bonner and Norton carried table back to Grammar School.
 - Accounted for supplies.
 - Loaded presentation, plants, signup, supplies.
 - Returned Public Works supplies to Police Headquarters.
- 3:00-4:00:
 - Collected yard signs in 9 locations.
- Evening:
 - Call and write email "Thank You's" to event volunteers, copying Select Board.
 - Write email to Select Board with names of volunteers asking that they be recognized for their service, attaching photos of some of the volunteers, and the trash collected.

Monday

- Thank Flipside for their participation.
- Thank Mrs. Riley, Thomaston Grammar School for table.
- Thank Tim Hoppe for police presence.
- Thank Brandon Allen for supplies and support.

- Write “after-action” follow-up summary to Courier Gazette, Free Press, and PenBay Pilot, copying Town Manager.
- Returned 3 boxes of contractor bags to Spears ACE Hardware