



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Conservation Commission**

*Christine Picklo, Chair
Larry Ritzhaupt, Vice Chairman
Karen Giugno, Secretary*

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475
Telephone (860) 395-3131 • FAX (860) 395-1216
www.oldsaybrookct.gov

*Peter D. DeLisa
Deborah E. Mapes
Laurie Pavlos
Nina D. Regan
Talia Bauer, Student Rep.*

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HYBRID MEETING**

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Picklo called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Christine Picklo, Chair; Karen Giugno; Peter DeLisa;
Deborah Mapes; Laurie Pavlos; Nina Regan; Talia Bauer, Student Rep

Members Absent: Larry Ritzhaupt

Land Use Department Staff Present: Krista May, Recording Clerk

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – March 12, 2024

MOTION to approve the minutes of March 12, 2024. **MADE:** P. DeLisa
SECONDED: L. Pavlos; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Giugno, P. DeLisa; D. Mapes;
L. Pavlos, N. Regan **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 6-0-0

B. Correspondence and Announcements - None

C. Committee, Representative and Staff Reports (Significant Update Only)

- i. **Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions – P. DeLisa**
A few violations have occurred but nothing for this group.

- ii. **Preserve Management Committee – C. Picklo**
CMC (Conservation Management Committee) met and the recommendation is to have controlled hunting. The ad hoc committee submitted a report. New deadline will now be Fall 2025.
- iii. **Old Saybrook Land Trust – L. Pavlos**
Tree give-a-way is April 27th.
- iv. **Parks and Rec – L. Ritzhaupt**
Will report at the next meeting.
- v. **CT River Gateway Commission – N. Regan**
Will report at the next meeting
- vi. **Student Rep. – T. Bauer**
Was not present at the meeting.
- vii. **Sustainable CT – L. Wacker**
The walk led by Larry Ritzhaupt was very successful.

There has been some discussion about the benefits of No Mow May – people are realizing that invasives might be present if not reduced and this is not beneficial. L. Pavlos talked about the Homegrown National Park concept – in your own backyard, do what you can to benefit the environment (such as planting native species to support birds and insects).

OS Landscaping guide for trees and shrubs should be available in May.

An application for Sustainable CT “Climate Leader” status will be submitted in April.

There was a discussion about installing Protected Open Space markers and an “Improve Outdoor Access for All” action to determine what accessibility improvements could be made.

Town is considering the acquisition of a 12.6 acre parcel at 155 Ingham Hill Road., currently the estate of David Brown.

D. **Action Tracker – K. Giugno**

K. Giugno reported on the Project Dark Skies page for the website.

P. Delisa has a table at the Garden Club Mother’s Day plant sale (May 10th and 11th) and will provide info about Conservation Commission actions. The Garden Club and SOS will also provide information. C. Picklo still has some reusable vegetable bags that were given away at the composting lecture. These can be given away at the table. Peter will ask Lynette about compost bins.

IV. LAND STEWARDSHIP

- A. **Open Space Monitoring** – L. Pavlos and N. Regan
L. Pavlos and N. Regan are going to meet to finish work on maps.
- B. **Pollinator Pathway & Education** – D. Mapes & K. Giugno
D Mapes stated that she stopped by the gardens and there were a lot of plants blooming. She has pictures for Facebook. There was a discussion about tasks to be done in the Spring – fertilize, aerate the soil, poke holes. Other actions were mentioned and more ideas considered. L. Wacker asked for brainstorming about the planters in front of Town Hall and Park & Rec.
- C. **Kayak Launch & Other Improvements** – L. Ritzhaupt
Not present, no report.
- D. **Tree Preservation**
C. Picklo stated that the SOS tree give-a-way is going well – 47 individuals have asked for trees and they are providing education to residents. There will be volunteers at the Congregational Church on Saturday, April 27th from 10am – 4pm giving away the trees. Pick up times are being scheduled. There should be another give-a-way in the fall.

OS will create a Tree Commission. C. Fortuna is committed to planning trees. The Commission will consist of six members and a part of its mission will be education.

There is an effort to find Town property to plant suitable trees – trees that would be on town roads not state roads. Town roads do not have traffic lights.

V. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- A. **Conservation Circular & Saybrook Events Magazine Q2** (Due May22 for July – September events)

Articles for Events are due by May 22nd. It was suggested there by an article on Plastic Free July and maybe promote reusable produce bags. This will be discussed at the next meeting. The idea of a survey was discussed to find out what businesses are conservation friendly. For example, the Friend of the Earth program at Ash Lawn – a participant gets 30cents off beverages when you bring your cup. It would be interesting to find out what businesses are using biodegradable take out containers and a list of environmental actions conducted by coffee places could be created. There could be an article about ways to use less single use plastic. Also, members of the public should be encouraged to follow the Conservation Commission on Facebook and maybe a QR code could be added that leads to more information.

Circular articles could be: Homegrown National Parks (L. Pavlos), Dark Skies (K. Giugno), and ideas for Plastic Free July. Also, Connecticut Water is promoting rain barrels. This is a discussion for next meeting.

B. Commission Webpage and Additional Outreach

L. Pavlos asked P. DeLisa to collect emails at the Garden Club event and provide information on how to “follow us” on Facebook.

There will be a Connecticut River Lecture Series taking place at Essex Meadows, Old Lyme Town Hall and Lyme Art Association in April and May.

C Picklo will send out the Estuary Magazine.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting of April 9, 2024 at 6:33p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room.
MADE: D. Mapes; **SECONDED:** P. DeLisa; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Giugno, P. DeLisa; D. Mapes; L. Pavlos, N. Regan; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None.
APPROVED: 6-0-0