



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**

RAY ALLEN, DIRECTOR PARKS & RECREATION  
CARL P. FORTUNA JR., EX-OFFICIO, FIRST SELECTMAN  
WILLIAM HOCHHOLZER, CT DEEP

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-2384  
Telephone (860) 395-3123 • Fax (860) 395-3125

**CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
Friday, March 12, 2021  
9:00 A.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – all members present
- II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – none at this time
- III. COMMENTS FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE** - none at this time
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE** – none at this time
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - December 11, 2020  
*FORTUNA/HOCHHOLZER*  
*MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*
- VI. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**
  - A.** Update on the Preserve Parking Lots: Route 153 and Ingham Hill Road parking lot and turnaround.

First Selectman Fortuna informed the group that the parking lot is out to bid with a bid opening of March 26. There were comments that the turnaround is getting abused. First Selectman Fortuna said he would contact Larry Bonin. Susan Esty would like to see a toilet at the 153 parking area.
  - B.** The Preserve Forest Stewardship Plan

The Moorhead study is still not released and the study needs to be submitted to the Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) for the stewardship plan to be completed. Mr. Moorhead works for DEEP so this is an odd situation. Ray Allen indicated that Mr. Moorhead was in touch with him this week and will have it completed soon.
  - C.** Update on the monitoring and control efforts for invasive weeds

It is hoped that some invasive work can be done at the end of March on the Blue Trail. Kathy Connolly shared a brief slideshow showing pictures of various flooding on trails, well capping, the condition of the red trail bridge and traffic at the Ingham Hill Rd turnaround (rocks needed to prevent parking). She overlayed a Mountain biking trail map indicating that we might be able to steer people to several different parking areas. Ray Allen talked about the yellow and blue trail and the ATV tracks that have been seen. An abutter's letter was reviewed and agreed that it should be sent. Kathy Connolly spoke of the yellow/red trail erosion. Several trails are unusable and hikers are making their own workarounds. The main trail should be a priority. Will Hochholzer stated that maybe we could tap the state stewardship fund for some repairs to trails but the stewardship plan needs to be complete for that to happen. There was a discussion about whether culverts should be installed.

Conservation Management Committee

March 12, 2021

Minutes

Will Hochholzer was not necessarily in favor of this. He suggested Larry Bonin meet with Alex Sokolow.

- VII. OTHER BUSINESS** - Will Hochholzer mentioned that there will be a study published soon that addresses the impact of recreational systems on forest health. Lastly, there was a discussion of new trails being made in the eastern part of the Preserve. Mr. Moorhead had concerns with this.

- VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE** – June 11, 2021

- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

*FORTUNA/HOCHHOLZER*

*MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

Respectfully submitted,

Carl P. Fortuna, Jr., First Selectman