



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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

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**CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
HYBRID MEETING**

Friday, June 11, 2021

9:00 A.M.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First Floor Conference Room

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – All members present
- II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Kathy Connolly spoke of the Moorhead report and the very specific attention he paid to weed management/invasives and that this is the worst he has seen it. The Preserve is relatively uninfested and he suggests we continue our efforts to keep it that way. We need to look at all our connected property as one to keep all relatively weed free. He also suggested that we consider designating the Preserve an “old growth” forest, which is a high level recommendation.
- III. COMMENTS FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE** - Ray Allen stated that he is waiting until August to do some work on the Red Trail/Frog Bridge and will get materials from Alex Sokolow then. Ms. Esty commented that there are always new bike trails and she has some concerns for public safety in the Preserve.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE**
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**- March 12, 2021
HOCHHOLZER/ALLEN
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. Bill Moorhead had some specific requests for the 153 parking area and that it be mowed minimally as there are some high quality plants at this site. Kathy Connolly noted that this area has become a bit of a contractor lunch spot, and the damage that goes with that. Mr. Fortuna spoke of the work at the Ingham Hill Road parking area and that it is almost done except for the fencing. They are waiting on a wood delivery so they may be gone from the site for a month. Ray Allen would like a design shield at this site to match other town parks. Discussion ensued about connecting the parking area to the trails. Signs will be posted. Parking may continue to be a problem as this lot is only for 12 cars and there are some times more than 20 cars up there. Will Hochholzer wondered if this was a possible leftover result of the pandemic. There was talk of more signage on this road to prevent traffic but this is a scenic road and that would be discouraged.

Conservation Management Committee

June 11, 2021

Minutes

- B.** The Preserve Forest Stewardship Plan – DEEP NDDDB draft letter is what our consultant is waiting for and it is promised very soon. Will Hochholzer informed the committee that three state land foresters will be retiring this year and the program will be short staffed for a while. He then spoke about the Beech Leaf disease which is present in the Preserve and quickly spreading through the state. It is anticipated that we will see mortality in pole sized beech trees in the near future. Kathy Connolly noted that when the Beeches die off, this can impact the forest floor and lead to more invasives spreading. She also noted that the CT invasive plant working groups will be at the Preserve July 17, 10am-12noon. Will Hochholzer noted that the Northeast Midwest State Foresters Alliance Public Lands Management Committee will hold an in person conference October 5-7 and they may visit the Preserve.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE – will be September 10, 2021 at 9am.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Carl P. Fortuna, Jr., First Selectman