



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

RAY ALLEN, DIRECTOR PARKS & RECREATION  
CARL P. FORTUNA JR., EX-OFFICIO, FIRST SELECTMAN  
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**CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HYBRID MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Friday, September 10, 2021**

**9:00 A.M.**

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First Floor Conference Room

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – All members present. Also present: Susan Esty, Kathy Connolly, Bob Lorenz and David Gumbart (TNC).
- II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None
- III. COMMENTS FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE** – Susan Esty commented on the bridges that need to be fixed in the Preserve. It was also noted that there are trees down in the Preserve near various trails and next to the bog, which Kathy Connolly believes may be expanding and undermining trees. There are washed out sections of various trails from the heavy rains we have recently received. The Red Trail has a lot of water over it. Sections of the Blue/White trail are akin to a wetland. As for trees down, Will Hochholzer recommended speaking with the manager of this area, Alex Sokolowski. There was also further discussion about signage. Ray Allen will provide Will Hochholzer with what the Town proposes to place at the new parking lot on Ingham Hill Road.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE** – None at this time
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**- June 11, 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.

Mr. Fortuna noted that the parking lot is nearly complete. Kathy Connolly suggested a rope guide/painted walkway for visitors to follow to the trailhead. Vehicles are still parking in the turnaround and on the trailhead. Ray and Carl agreed that a meet up with Larry Bonin and Chief Spera for some ideas on how to nudge people to park in the parking lot would be a good idea.
  - B.** NDDB letter concerning the Preserve Forest Stewardship Plan  
The failure of this letter to be generated has caused tremendous delay and now that we have it, GEI should be able to give us a timeline for completion. GEI has seen turnover which has also led to delay. GEI will come up with recommendations and then there will be a public hearing. Will Hochholzer noted that this was the most extensive NDDB letter he has ever seen. David Gumbart noted that the NDDB report will be important for any future needs or work to be done in the Preserve, for example, future timber culling. Kathy

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Connolly noted that she thought there were contradictions between Bill Moorhead's report and the NDDB letter. Will Hochholzer stated that before we get too caught up in any of that, let GEI finish their report.

**C. Update on the monitoring and control efforts for invasive weeds**

Kathy Connolly thought that invasives, over everything, should be a priority for the Preserve. Japanese stilt grass, for one, is a huge problem. But controls work, like cutting year after year. Its spread is inevitable though due to how easily it spreads with rain, dogs, and boots. Early detection is key. David Gumbart mentioned that with 3 years continuous treatment, it can be controlled. Kathy Connolly noted that we are in year 4 and it does work. There is concern that Beech leaf disease will open up another opportunity for invasives as we lose that forest cover.

- VII. OTHER BUSINESS** - Will Hochholzer asked about events in the Preserve. Ray Allen noted that there was a run and Kathy Connolly noted that she will be on a hike with a herpetologist this weekend. Forty-five people have signed up for that.

David Gumbart noted that he will be going part-time with TNC and that Alex Novarro will be the new contact for this committee.

Ray Allen noted that on September 30 at 6pm, there will be a public presentation of the Moorhead report.

- VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE** – The committee agreed to move the next meeting date to Wednesday, December 15 at 9am.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Carl P. Fortuna, Jr., First Selectman