



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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**CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HYBRID MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022
11:00 A.M.**

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First Floor Conference Room

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – All members present. Also attending: Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Alex Novarro (TNC), Honor Lawler (TPL), Chris Cryder and Alexander Sokolow.
- II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – Kathy Connolly shared a presentation about Preserve Weed Removal & Trail Work Proposal (see attached exhibit). There are 7 proposed projects that the ad hoc committee will recommend to the Board of Selectmen. There was discussion about closing a loop that is used by bikers/walkers but Ms. Connolly said that there would still be a loop just not where it is now. She also again mentioned the Frog Bridge and wondered if the Bridal Trail groups may want to assist with funding. Additional comments were to make certain that this work would be consistent with recreational use assessment, state interests and TPL guidelines. Ms. Connolly said it definitely would be.
- III. COMMENTS FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE** – No comments at this time though Mr. Allen did read the plaque that was installed.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE** – None
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MOTION** to approve the August 31, 2022 minutes.
HOCHOLZER/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. Hochholzer mentioned that the state shield sign is up.
 - B.** Update on Grant Application for Vernal Pool Study
Mr. Hochholzer stated that before we move forward with much else, this has to be done. Mr. Cryder said there was no new data from GEI. Dr. Klemens has to come in and do his assessment of the (now) 40+ identified vernal pools. The committee is looking for how productive these vernal pools are which may help determine the buffer area for forestry. There was discussion about how more productive pools may require greater life zone protection areas than less productive pools. The state has GIS mapping that should save some money for Dr. Klemens work. There was further discussion about who would be contacting Dr. Klemens to get him ready for a March 2023 investigation. It was determined that Mr. Cryder would be the point person. One of the important issues is how much field work needs to be done in the new proposal. Mr. Hochholzer will send a

pdf of the state GIS to Mr. Cryder for Dr. Klemens review. Mr. Novarro asked if Dr. Klemens could categorize the productivity of the pools so that appropriate buffers could be determined.

C. Update on Interim Trail Map and visitor accessibility to digital maps

The State has worked with TPL and hikers can now download a geo reference locator so you can see where you are in the Preserve. This should assist with helping people back to the trails. Kathy Connolly said the Essex Land Trust may also be interested in this. There was some discussion that the new parking lot on Ingham Hill may not be on this map. Mr. Hochholzer will check this.

D. Update on the monitoring and control efforts for invasive weeds

Previously discussed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 9am.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – MOTION to adjourn at 12pm

HOCHOLZER/ALLEN

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Carl P. Fortuna Jr., First Selectman