



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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**CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HYBRID MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, December 15, 2022

9:00 A.M.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First Floor Conference Room

- I. CALL TO ORDER** - All members of the committee present. Also present: Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Alex Sokolow, Alex Amendola, Bob Lorenz, Chris Cryder, Kathy Connolly, Tedd Levy and Christine Picklo.
- II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None
- III. COMMENTS FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE** – The Chalker House was discussed. Ray Allen stated that Tedd Levy brought up the topic of this house as a possible kiosk/welcome center. It would have to be moved at a cost of at least \$50,000. The Nature Conservancy easement calls for no structures, so this presents an issue. No town land abutting is satisfactory. The house is 43' x 16', post and beam, hand hewn wood, milled stones. It will have to be moved this spring. Will Hochholzer noted that the cost of the structure is usually 20% of the total cost when factoring in maintenance. The placement in the Westbrook parking lot was floated. Mr. Fortuna stated he would contact Jeff Jacobson to plot it at the parking lot; Ray Allen will contact TNC.
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE**
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**- October 18, 2022. Approved removing Mr. Allen as approving the minutes.
- VI. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**
 - A.** Update on the Preserve Parking Lots: Route 153 and Ingham Hill Road parking lot and turnaround. The parking lots will be GPS'ed soon by Alex Amendola.
 - B.** Update on Grant Application for Vernal Pool Study – There was a lengthy discussion on Dr. Klemens proposal, which is approximately \$60,000. It was agreed the work has to be done this spring. Alex Amendola has prepared a location map of the pools. Will Hochholzer stated that a state biologist may be available to do this work but there may also be other biologists who can do this. Discussion of an RFP or at least a solicitation of proposals was discussed recognizing the time sensitivity of this matter. The scope is relatively simple: document the viability of the vernal pools and make recommendations to minimize impact to amphibians with the 10-year plan which includes timbering. It was agreed to take a 3 pronged

approach: submit a grant for this work up to 52k with TPL; ask Mike Revesi if he is able to do this work this year in house for the State of CT; solicit bids from other private sector experts. Mr. Fortuna and Will Hochholzer will work on an RFP. It is possible the town will commit funds to this project, not just TPL.

- C. Update on Interim Trail Map and visitor accessibility to digital maps
- D. Update on the monitoring and control efforts for invasive weeds. Kathy Connolly gave an update on weed control, stating that the areas that have been mechanically treated multiple times over the past several years have little regeneration. She has made a grant request to TPL for 25k-46k for barberry control in new areas, which also includes less common bittersweet and Euonymus. She stated that the winter crew should be looking for lanternfly eggs and tree of heaven as well.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS - Will Hochholzer stated he wants to get the boundaries painted and tagged this winter. Alex Amendola will work on this with volunteers from the town.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

IX. ADJOURNMENT – MOTION made to adjourn at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fortuna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl P. Fortuna Jr.
First Selectman