



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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**MEETING MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

Friday, June 12, 2020

9:00 A.M.

Town Hall – via zoom

PRESENT: Will Hochholzer and Carl P. Fortuna, Jr. Also present Bob Nussbaum, Robert Lorenz, Ray Allen, Chris Cryder, Kathy Connolly.

- I. CALL TO ORDER-** Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM.
- 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-** Mr. Fortuna informed the committee that Trust for Public Land (TPL) has awarded the town the grant for the Ingham Hill Road parking lot.
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
FORTUNA/HOCHHOLZER**

Motion to approved Conservation Management meeting minutes March 13, 2020.

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.

The permit for the state shield sign has been acquired and will be coordinated with CTDOT and Old Saybrook Director of Public Works in July. Chris Cryder stated the Old Saybrook shield sign should go up too. Kathy Connolly would like to put up trail etiquette/priority signs on the trails (pedestrians first, horses second, bikers third) which Will Hochholzer agreed with. Kathy Connolly also reported the trees are doing fine at the 153 parking area.
 - B.** The Preserve Forest Stewardship Plan.

Will Hochholzer is in touch with GEI on this. Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) is supposedly waiting for a final report from Bill Moorhead; however, Ray Allen believes it has been submitted recently so Will Hochholzer will follow up with NDDB. This will allow GEI to finish up. Chris Cryder would like to see the public comments (over 1500) of them and will ask TPL to ask GEI to make that part of the report available.

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

D. Application for funds from the Trust for Public Land.

The grant from TPL that was received last month was twofold: To clean up the Preserve (fabric, pipes, boards) and examine dangerous trees. Kathy Connolly has a work plan from the contractor who will be there in July. He will also be capping old wells and make them into benches and repair the Ingham Hill Road kiosk. Old Saybrook Director of Public Works will assist with garbage clean up. There will also be some funds, approximately 10k, for invasive weeds. There is concern about stilt grass, barberie and phragmites. Dave Gumbart from TNC stated, as they did last fall, volunteers from TNC would be willing to assist in August to keep down the invasive weeds. The bridge on the red trail was discussed by Will Hochholzer. He viewed it with Alex Sokolow. He suggested rather than replacing the whole bridge now, new decking would suffice. Long term, all agreed a sturdier bridge that can have a vehicle on it would need to be engineered. The turnaround was discussed at Ingham Hill Road. Mr. Fortuna indicated he would check with Director of Public Works Larry Bonin about progress on this.

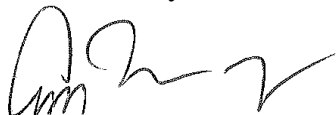
OTHER BUSINESS – Will Hochholzer informed the committee that the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) has confirmed beech leaf disease has infected beech trees in the Preserve. This is a new disease in CT and Will Hochholzer will distribute additional information to the committee as it becomes available.

Ray Allen commented on the following: He has put more directional signs in the Preserve to assist hikers, police have been doing more ATV patrols and there has been a bear sighting near the Preserve. Bear Aware signs will be posted. Mr. Nussbaum indicated they have seen bears in Essex and Essex Land Trust has posted these signs. Eversource will be doing some invasive weed control on their right of way. Kathy Connolly queried whether we should try smothering some invasives with wood chips.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE- September 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT- at 9:45 a.m.

Submitted by:



Carl P. Fortuna, Jr.
First Selectman