



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Conservation Commission**

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-1741  
Telephone (860) 395-3131 • FAX (860) 395-1216

**Members**  
Richard Esty, *Chairman*  
Christine Picklo, *Secretary*  
Jerry Brophy

Donna Leake  
Larry Ritzhaupt  
Glenda Sohl  
Kaley Sperling – Student  
Representative

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 6:30 P.M.  
Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
302 Main Street

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Richard Esty called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present

Richard Esty, Larry Ritzhaupt, Christine Picklo, Glenda Sohl, Kaley Sperling- Student Rep.

Members Absent

Jerry Brophy, Donna Leake

Land Use Department Staff

Sharon Migliaccio, Recording Clerk

**III. REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **Minutes-** The minutes of July 10, 2018 meeting of the Conservation Commission were reviewed and two errors were found.

- 1) Under Adjournment Kacey Constable was listed as voting but she was not present at this meeting.
- 2) Donna Leake had been present.

<p><b>MOTION</b> to accept the minutes as corrected, <b>MADE</b> by R. Esty; <b>SECONDED</b> by L. Ritzhaupt, <b>VOTED IN FAVOR:</b> R. Esty, L. Ritzhaupt, C. Picklo; G. Sohl, <b>OPPOSED:</b> None; <b>ABSTAINED:</b> 0; <b>APPROVED:</b> 4-0-0.</p>
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**B. Correspondence & Announcements**

Richard gave the members flyers for the Electrify Your Drive event to be held on September 15, 2018 at Saybrook Point Pavilion. Richard asked the members to take several copies and place them around town.

**C. Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions**

The meeting of the Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions had been cancelled so there is no report.



#### **D. Preserve Management Committee**

Kacey Constable has stepped down from the Conservation Commission so we need a new committee representative. Anyone interested may contact Richard.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Vice Chair Open Position** – Casey Constable was the vice chair for the Conservation Commission and since she has stepped down from the commission, the Vice Chair position is open. Officer elections are held in January and a vice chair can be elected then.

Jerry Brophy's term ends in November and he will step down at that time if we have a new replacement. Larry may know someone. Richard asked Larry to invite him to attend a Conservation meeting. Anyone interested in joining the commission is welcome to attend a meeting and if interested, send letter of interest to Selectman Carl Fortuna.

**B. Conservation Commission Plan Update** –The Commission has agreed that our new goals will be updated to Plastics, Recycling and Outreach Education. The actual Conservation Plan is not in line for formal update until possibly 2019. In preparation for that update, over the next few months, the commission will review the current plan's listed projects and goals for completion status and assess if any open projects are still necessary.

**C. Project Prioritization-** The new focus of the commission is to be plastics, education and recycling. It is important to inform the public on the commission's projects and elicit community involvement.

Richard noted the need to update the Notable Trees Brochure and expand it to include documentation of our Open Spaces. Judy Preston, who is a landscape specialist and extremely active with the Preserve, has agreed to work on this update. Richard will contact Judy and start the process.

Larry has agreed to chair for the plastic initiative and spoke of decreasing the use of plastics in Old Saybrook. Stores and businesses such as Stop & Shop and Starbucks should be contacted to attempt a reduction of plastic use. Ask questions like how much plastic is used and its disposal.

Larry went on to say we need a strategy of what to do, set a goal and go after it. We must set up a timeline and decide what roles we want to do. This process will start at our next scheduled meeting.

Kaley was asked to find out what ideas the young people have in regards to plastics and to give us a report on what social media we should use as part of our Community Outreach goal.

At the next meeting we will go through the list of projects and prioritize them. Work on them one at a time until completed and move onto the next.

Issue that was reported to the Commission – A piece of property at Cornfield Point requested an exchange of access but the Planning Commission tabled it. Large boulders were placed to prevent parking and signage removed. After some complaints from the community were received, Carl requested the boulders removed and a park bench put in. Also, signage will be put up and the community asked to report any misuse of the area.

committee that should make decisions to the removal of trees in Old Saybrook and it is unclear if that commission has any current members. Discussion was had about the pro's and con's of asking that the Tree Commission become a sub commission to the Conservation Commission. Further discussion to be had on this topic

Another issue is the unimproved road on Ingram Hill Road and a recent request to the Planning Commission for change in land ownership. A parking area has been proposed by the Preserve for that area - but home owners are against it. They want the Planning Commission to turn the property over to them and an easement to be in place for emergency vehicles. Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 5th and Richard asked if anyone would be able to attend that meeting and report back. It was suggested a memo be sent to the Planning Chairman regarding the Ingham Hill item on the agenda as a concern to the Conservation Commission. Richard will draft the memo.

Richard would like members to attend other Commission meetings. They can take turns attending.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

<p><b><u>MOTION</u></b> to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission which will be Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 302 Main Street; <b><u>APPROVAL</u></b> by unanimous consent; <b><u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u></b> R. Esty, L. Ritzhaupt, C. Picklo; G. Sohl, <b><u>OPPOSED:</u></b> None; <b><u>ABSTAINED:</u></b> 0; <b><u>APPROVED:</u></b> 4-0-0.</p>
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Respectfully submitted,

Sharon E. Migliaccio  
Recording Clerk