



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*
Kacey Constable, *Vice Chair*
Christine Picklo, *Secretary*
Jerry Brophy
Donna Leake
Larry Ritzhaupt
Glenda Sohl
Kayle Sperling – Student
Representative

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room
302 Main Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Esty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Richard Esty, Donna Leake, Christine Picklo, Kacey Constable, Glenda Sohl

Members Absent

Jerry Brophy, Larry Ritzhaupt

Land Use Department Staff

Sharon Migliaccio, Recording Clerk

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. **Minutes-** The minutes of April 10, 2018 meeting of the Conservation Commission were reviewed and two typo errors were found: Under New Business, C, “what is being down” should be “what is being done”. Also, under D of Regular Business, Eversource should be Eversource.

MOTION to accept the minutes as corrected, **MADE** by R. Esty; **SECONDED** by K. Constable, **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, D. Leake, C. Picklo; G. Sohl, C. Constable, **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** 0; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

B. Correspondence & Announcements

Several publications for the commission were presented for review: The Habitat, ArcUser, a letter to Tessa Getchis of the CT Sea Grant. The letter was drafted by Christine Nelson on behalf of the town supporting her support for grant request to USDA National Resources Conservation Service for SeaGrant to do a study of Long Island Sound focusing on shellfish restoration – specifically the oyster beds in Oyster River.

C. **Budget Review-**Richard reported that he has not received the budget for 2018 – 2019. Money has been spent for the Habitat project for the blue bird and butterfly houses. Bat house supplies will be coming out of this fiscal year’s budget.

D. Committees

i. Inland Wetlands- Richard had nothing to report.

ii. Preserve Management Committee- Kacey has nothing new to report. She invited members to walk the main trails. There was some discussion about drainage on the trails. Kacey said that some will have to be raised.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Conservation Commission Plan Update – Due to changes and project completions since the last Conservation Plan update, it is necessary to update the plan to meet our new needs and goals. Kacey asked the members to review the document titled Conservation Plan – Open Space and cross off those projects that have been completed. Some members were concerned that they didn't know much about what to eliminate but Kacey said to do their best and they would have a discussion at the next meeting. Richard asked if all the plans after 2003 were addendums. There were more discussions and plans put into place to organize the process and ensure timely completion. Donna said the Open Space document appeared to have been taken from the Town Plan and the Stewardship plan appeared to be the document to record/monitor the action taken.

Kacey will contact Gillian about getting a map for this project. Also, she will talk to Chris Nelson about getting a list of projects completed and to be completed. Glenda Sohl doesn't have any information on the Conservation Plan. Kacey will ask Gillian for two sets for Glenda and for Jerry Brophy. To support the plan update Gillian Carroll – the Environmental Planner will be asked to provide a history of the commission since 2003 at the next scheduled meeting.

B. Projects Prioritization - Richard listed all the current projects the Conservation Commission has been involved with:

Current Projects/Programs

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|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Conservation Plan Update | Habitat Housing |
| Land Stewardship | Film Series |
| Quarterly Newsletter/Print Media | Social Media |
| Conservation Books at Library | |

New Project Ideas for 6/19

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Town Initiative on Plastics | Waste and Transfer |
| Composting | Reduce/Reuse/Recycle |
| Decrease Water Usage | Town Planting Plan |

Plastic products are a growing problem and should be strongly addressed. Glenda would like an effort to get the restaurants to stop passing out straws to their customers. Richard told the members that plastic products will be a focus for the Conservation Commission for next year with our upcoming projects/events to relate to plastics including the film series, newsletter, etc. We need additional outreach education and tie it back to plastics.. It was also suggested to work with local merchants to encourage them to not deal in plastic. After more discussion a motion was made.

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| <p>MOTION to make plastics the main focus of the Conservation Commission , MADE by R. Esty; SECONDED by G. Sohl, VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Esty, D. Leake, C. Picklo; G. Sohl, C. Constable, OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: 0; APPROVED: 5-0-0.</p> |
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V. A. **Film Series** – Donna said better advertising is needed. Also shorter films that will allow more time for moderator facilitation on post film discussions. She reported that the Pavilion will be used for the next series. Larry will be approached about doing the series focusing on plastics. She also said that notice should be placed outside of the event so people know that it is there.

B. **Social Media** – Kayle was not present to give her report.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission which will be Tuesday, July 9, 2018, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 302 Main Street; **APPROVAL** by unanimous consent;
VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Esty, D. Leake, C. Picklo; G. Sohl, C. Constable, **OPPOSED:**
None; **ABSTAINED:** 0; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon E. Migliaccio
Recording Clerk