



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**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 7:00 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 7:00 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Jerry Brophy, Donna Leake

**Land Use Department Staff**

Gillian Carroll, Environmental Planner and Sharon Migliaccio, Recording Clerk

**III. REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **Minutes-** The minutes of August 28, 2018 special meeting of the Conservation Commission were reviewed and one omission found.

1) Need to add to the third paragraph under Project Prioritization –Christine Picklo agreed to act as co-chair. Also, Glenda Sohl will serve on the committee.

<p><b><u>MOTION</u></b> to accept the minutes as corrected, <b><u>MADE</u></b> by R. Esty; <b><u>SECONDED</u></b> by L. Ritzhaupt, <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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**B. Correspondence & Announcements**

There was no correspondence. Gillian announced the upcoming workshop on Inland Wetlands and Conservation to be held November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lion in Cromwell Connecticut. Anyone wishing to attend Gillian will get information for them.

### **C. Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions**

There was no meeting so there is no report.

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

There will be a meeting of the Preserve Management Committee on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Richard approached Carl to have Glenda as the new Conservation Commission member to the preserve committee. She has been accepted to that position.

## **IV. PROJECT WORK**

### **A. Conservation Commission Plan Update**

The commission will wait to discuss the plan update at a later time. They need to spend more time on the plastic initiative instead of other projects.

### **B. Plastics Initiative**

A timeline was distributed to the members outlining month by month the progress of the initiative for a year. In November we will confirm our goals; December there will be a list of strategies on how we reach goals; January – February Synthesize data; February – March implement plan; and May – June – July put information in articles, newsletter, and social media. We also need to get information to clubs in Old Saybrook. It is important to get the community involved.

It is important to get the public educated and there was some discussion as how to go about it best. It was suggested to use the internet such as Drop Box, Google Docs or Google Drive. Richard suggested One-Note. Gillian explained how Google Drive works. Christine will look at the options and report back. Kaley has used Drop Box, Google drive and Google Docs and explained more about each. After more discussion all agreed there is a need for a place to put all our information electronically for easy access. Christine volunteered to research Google Docs and create a tutorial on how to use it.

Richard gave the members information on reducing use of single-use plastics, recycling and beach or river cleanup as well as other plastic issues. There is another document which Richard will send to the members. Larry asked the members to read the two documents and discuss at the next meeting. Larry will draft a list of goals from the committee along with other issues and goals we want to address.

### **C. Social Media**

Kaley thought the use of Twitter and Facebook would be helpful to reach the public. The Town has a Facebook page but we will have to find out who is the administrator of it. Also, we would have to know how to add to it and how it works. She explained a lot of Old Saybrook residents use it. Kaley will send the web address to Richard so he can find who the administrator is. Facebook can link to other sites. Richard would like to promote our own page but we would have to keep it up. People have to know we exist. Kaley will help setting it up if we decide to pursue our own web page. The commission needs to decide how it will look and what information will be put on it. Once the web page is set up it is important to update the information regularly (monthly meetings, articles, or any other information of interest). We want to be open to all issues in the Conservation Commission.

Larry suggested the Plastic Imitative needs to be a standing item on the agenda.

## **V. PROJECT UPDATES**

### **A. Notable Tree Brochure**

There is no update on the Tree Brochure.

### **B. Plastics Film Series**

The Commission is not in a position to do a film series at this time. Films which are appropriate to plastics are the focus.. Also, shorter films would be best.

### **D. Quarterly News Letter**

Richard explained it will cost \$175 for 100 copies of the news letter. The newsletter is already put together and ready for printing. Pictures of the students who made the bat houses are included in the newsletter. Richard will send it in next week and it will take a week to receive it back. Copies will be sent to those who attend the film series and gave their email addresses. He went on to tell the members next time they can write articles for it. Larry volunteered to review the newsletter.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Letter to Board of Selectmen/Planning Commission**

The chairman of the planning commission can't do anything about the item on their agenda regarding Ingham Hill Road and suggested going to the Board of Selectmen. The Conservation Commission only wants the opportunity to advise before a decision is made. Glenda attended the last meeting and gave a report. She reported the property owner who wishes to purchase the property wants to buy it for the safety of his children. She said the item on the agenda was tabled. Richard will meet with Carl on September 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the matter. The Town wants to put a parking area before the unimproved road. This should solve the safety problem. If permitted to have the property he could subdivide and pave the unpaved road at a later date. Christine said we should make an advisement to the Planning Commission to be careful of their decision. It does not make since to give up the property and cut off access. How will it impact the preserve is a major concern. Richard will draft an advice notice and email members for approval. Glenda said she would attend the next Planning meeting and read the letter to them.

### **B. Tree Warden Invitation**

Richard suggested the commission extend an invitation to the Tree Warden to attend a commission meeting. All agreed it would be a good idea.

## ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission which will be Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 302 Main Street; **APPROVAL** by unanimous consent; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, L. Ritzhaupt, C. Picklo; G. Sohl, **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED: 0; APPROVED: 4-0-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon E. Migliaccio  
Recording Clerk

