



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Conservation Commission

*Richard Esty, Chair
Christine Picklo, Vice Chair
Kelly Hartshorn, Secretary*

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*Donna Leake
Larry Ritzhaupt
Glenda Sohl
Thomas Gezo*

Joe Bradley, Student Rep.

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Second Floor Conference Room, Town Hall
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

II. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present

Richard Esty, Christine Picklo, Donna Leake, Kelly Hartshorn, Larry Ritzhaupt and Thomas Gezo

Members Absent

Glenda Sohl and Student Rep. Joe Bradley

Land Use Department Staff

Patrick Hegge, Environmental Enforcement Officer; Lynette Wacker, Recording Clerk

Also present: Jim Therrien, OS Transfer Station and Alyse Oziolor, IWWC alt. member

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **2020 Meeting Calendar**

MOTION to approve the 2020 Conservation Commission Meeting Calendar as presented; **MADE** by T. Gezo and **SECONDED** by D. Leake; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, C. Picklo, D. Leake, K. Hartshorn, T. Gezo, L. Ritzhaupt;; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

B. **November Re-Appointments**

R. Esty asked the commission members who are up for re-appointment to please send a letter to First Selectman Carl Fortuna indicating whether they are interested in being reappointed to the CC, and to also let R. Esty know.

C. Scarecrow Contest

The Conservation Commission would like to co-sponsor the scarecrow made from trash collected at the coastal cleanup, which will be entered in the Chamber of Commerce's Scarecrow Fest.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS**A. Meeting Minutes** of September 10, 2019

C. Picklo noted that C. Colin Heffernan should be J. Colin Heffernan. L. Ritzhaupt would like to strike "there is still uncertainty whether thin film plastics such as dry cleaning bags are being recycled."

MOTION to approve the meeting minutes of September 10th, 2019 as corrected; **MADE** by L. Ritzhaupt and **SECONDED** by K Hartshorn; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, K. Hartshorn, T. Gezo, L. Ritzhaupt, C. Picklo, D. Leake; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

B. Correspondence & Announcements

P. Hegge reported that a proposal for 9 Kitteridge Hill Rd. (Map 50/Lot 63-0006) involving the replacement of an above-ground pool partially within the upland review area may need to be forwarded to the IWWC. R. Esty expressed some concern about the impacts of the proposed project on the wetland.

R. Esty received notification from C. Nelson about an upcoming CACIWC (CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) meeting on November 23rd. R. Esty asked any members who are interested to let him know so they can be registered.

C. Budget Review – The 2019-2020 budget allocations were discussed.

MOTION to approve a payment of \$135.82 to Essex Printing for newsletter printing costs; **MADE** by L. Ritzhaupt and **SECONDED** by C. Picklo; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, T. Gezo, L. Ritzhaupt, D. Leake; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

V. COMMITTEE, REPRESENTATIVE & STAFF REPORTS**A. Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions** - R. Esty had nothing additional to report.**B. Preserve Management Committee** - L. Ritzhaupt reported that it was mentioned to him that the trail markers could be improved. R. Esty stated that the Preserve Committee is working with the State on that project. Specific suggestions should be passed along to G. Sohl.**C. Gateway Conservation Commission** - T. Gezo reported that there was a review the property at 91 Sheffield St. (Map 49/Lot 2). The applicant is proposing to rezone the property and is applying for variances to develop a residential project. T. Gezo did not feel the project met the

spirit of the Gateway Conservation Commission regulations and there would be a significant visual impact from the river.

- D. **Sustainable CT Team** - K. Hartshorn reported that as the CC holds events they should report the event details to the Land Use office, as these events could qualify as sustainable actions under the Sustainable CT program.

VI. **PROJECT WORK: Plastics Initiative**

- A. **Status Update** – L. Ritzhaupt reported that the town as a whole seems to be adapting well to the elimination of single-use plastic bags.
- B. **Events – Coastal Clean Up Day, Saturday, Sept. 21st** – L. Ritzhaupt reported that the event went well and if they had more lead time they could have involved even more town groups. He would like to see it put on the calendar for next year to get an earlier start in the planning process. K. Hartshorn noted that the Old Saybrook cleanup was not listed in the Harbor News article about coastal cleanups in the area, and if they start advertising earlier next year they could receive more publicity.
- C. **Film Series Suggestions/Ideas** – L. Ritzhaupt reported that in the past Denali hosted the film series, and with Denali gone they will need to find a new venue. There was a lengthy discussion about the timing, location and focus of the event. R. Esty reported that C. Nelson suggested contacting another organization that does a film series which the CC might be able to piggyback on, meaning use those films for a lesser cost. D. Leake suggested adding a discussion time after the films to allow for more participant interaction. T. Gezo suggested bringing in some speakers. L. Ritzhaupt suggested partnering with area land trusts. T. Gezo to contact the Kate and D. Leake the school district as possible venues. P. Hegge to find out if the CC has any limits on the amount of income they can generate. They will also need to determine where profits, if any, would be directed. Saturday, April 4th was determined to be a good date for the event.

VII. **OTHER PROJECT UPDATES**

- A. **Commission Focus** – L. Ritzhaupt to do a quick “lessons learned” write-up about the coastal cleanup and an outline for the film series for the November meeting.
- B. **Quarterly Newsletter – Next Topic** - R. Esty is looking for ideas for the next newsletter. D. Leake suggested asking high school students to contribute to the newsletter.
- C. **Saybrook Events Magazine – Deadline for Q4: 11/27/19** - R. Esty suggested writing articles about the coastal cleanup follow-up and the upcoming film series and asked for volunteers.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

<p>MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission on November 12, 2019, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 302 Main Street; MADE by T. Gezo and SECONDED by L. Ritzhaupt; VOTED IN</p>

FAVOR: L. Ritzhaupt, R. Esty, C. Picklo, D. Leake, T. Gezo, K. Hartshorn; OPPOSED: None. ABSTAINED: None. APPROVED: 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynette Wacker
Recording Clerk