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| image1.pdf | TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK **Conservation Commission** | *Richard Esty, Chair*  *Christine Picklo, Vice Chair*  *Kelly Hartshorn, Secretary* |
| 302 Main Street  Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-1741  Telephone (860) 395-3073  FAX (860) 395-1216 www.oldsaybrookct.org | *Donna Leake*  *Larry Ritzhaupt*  *Glenda Sohl*  *Thomas Gezo*  *Joe Bradley, Student Rep.* |

**MINUTES**  
REGULAR MEETING  
**Tuesday, December 12, 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 7:02 pm.

##### II. ROLL CALL

**Members Present**

Richard Esty, Christine Picklo, Kelly Hartshorn and Glenda Sohl

**Members Absent**

Tom Gezo, Donna Leake, and Larry Ritzhaupt and Student Rep. Joe Bradley

**Land Use Department Staff**

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

**Guest**

Alyse Oziolor

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

C. Picklo reported that she was very impressed with the CACIWC (CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) conference and recommended that commission members attend in the future. She reported that the head of DEEP was the keynote speaker who announced that the State is moving forward with offshore wind power and the Council on Climate Change is being reintroduced. She also learned that there is a Bike/Walk CT organization that a Commission member could perhaps join. R. Esty mentioned that Old Saybrook has a series of open spaces and coming up with a way to link them would be a good action to pursue. C. Picklo went on to mention that there was a lot of material about native plants and invasive species available at the conference, and she learned that taking out the invasives leaves space for other invasives to insert themselves so removal should be done cautiously. R. Esty suggested creating a list of acceptable plantings and where they can be sourced to provide for the Planning and Zoning Commissions. R. Esty also mentioned that DEEP has a mobile science van which is like a mini science museum, and it would be nice to have them come to an Old Saybrook event such as Founders Day. C. Picklo reported that 2020 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. R. Esty suggested that the March edition of the newsletter could be dedicated to Earth Day.

IV. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

1. **Meeting Minutes** of October 8, 2019 and November 12, 2019

**MOTION** to approve the meeting minutes of October 8, 2019; **MADE** by C. Picklo and **SECONDED** by K. Hartshorn; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, C. Picklo, G. Sohl, K. Hartshorn; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

**MOTION** to approve the meeting minutes of November 12, 2019; **MADE** by K. Hartshorn and **SECONDED** by G. Sohl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, C. Picklo, G. Sohl, K. Hartshorn; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

1. **Correspondence & Announcements -** R. Estyreceived a thank you card from the chamber regarding the Commission’s entry of Harvey the trash scarecrow in the scarecrow contest.
2. **Budget Review –** R. Estyreported thatthe Commission has about $3,100 remaining in the budget and they appear to be on target with their current and upcoming expenses. C. Picklo and T. Gezo worked on allocating the upcoming 2020 budget and a worksheet was distributed.

V. **COMMITTEE, REPRESENTATIVE & STAFF REPORTS**

1. **Inland** **Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions –** R. Estyreported that they are working with a cooperative landowner on a wetlands violation. The landowner was trying to clean up invasives and reclaim the wetlands on his property but was not aware that a permit was needed. The homeowner is hiring a soil scientist to delineate the wetlands and will go forward with restoration as directed by the IWWC.
2. **Preserve Management Committee** – G. Sohl reported that they still do not have the plans they have been waiting for. The white plastic pipes used for perc tests need to be removed from throughout the property. Some people have been getting lost on the trails because better signage is needed. There was an enormous patch of Japanese barberry and sawgrass that was pulled up and reseeded, and the new growth is doing well. They are considering placing boot cleaners at the entrances to prevent the spread of invasive seeds.
3. **Gateway Conservation Commission** - T. Gezo was not present to report.
4. **Sustainable CT** **Team** - K. Hartshorn reported that she will be attending a Sustainable CT team meeting on Thursday. One Sustainable CT action that the Commission could undertake is the development of a watershed health pledge for residents and business owners which could be handed out at the film festival and other events. P. Hegge reported that he will be working on Action 2.2 to develop a natural resource inventory. R. Esty stated that the Commission should be monitoring the health of all the vernal pools within the town. There was a discussion about another possible watershed education action involving the signs identifying storm drains that discharge directly into the Long Island Sound.

. **PROJECT WORK: Plastics Initiative**

**Film Series Update-** R. Esty stated that they should choose a main film for the series soon, and asked the commission members to send in their film choices before the January meeting. C. Picklo will redistribute the list of possible film topics. They will choose 2 or 3 shorter films which will be followed by an opportunity for discussion with a guest speaker or moderator. P. Hegge reported that to hold the series at the OSMS auditorium they would have to pay for custodial services. Saturday April 4, 2020 from 11:00-2:00 was chosen as the likely date and time. Films and location should be nailed down by February so they can advertise in March. They should line up relevant people/organizations to set up tables to distribute information. They could work with the schools to have students participate in an Earth Day poster contest, and can discuss prizes in January.

**MOTION** to set the date, time and location of the film series as April 4, 2020 from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm at the OSMS auditorium; **MADE** by R. Esty and **SECONDED** by C. Picklo; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, G. Sohl; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

VII. **OTHER** **PROJECT UPDATES**

1. **Commission Focus** – SMART program- the Commission will be having a guest speaker in January so they should do some research prior to the next meeting.
2. **Quarterly Newsletter – Next Topic** - R. Esty reported that he is working on an article, and K. Hartshorn reported that J. Bradley has an article to contribute. Articles due to R. Esty by December 15th.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission on January 14, 2020, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 302 Main Street; **MADE** by G. Sohl and **SECONDED** by K. Hartshorn; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, G. Shol; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynette Wacker

Recording Clerk