



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, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
First Floor Conference Room, Town Hall
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Richard Esty, Kelly Hartshorn, Christine Picklo (by phone), Tom Gezo (arrived at 7:36) and Student Rep. Joe Bradley

Members Absent

Glenda Sohl, Donna Leake and Larry Ritzhaupt

Land Use Department Staff

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

Guests

Kristen Brown, Waste Zero; Carl Fortuna, First Selectman; 18 people in the audience

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Guest Speaker – Kristen Brown, Waste Zero

First Selectman Carl Fortuna explained the imminent garbage problem in Connecticut and introduced Kristen Brown from Waste Zero to present information about the SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash) Program. Ms. Brown further described the garbage problem that the New England states are facing. She explained that people need to reduce, reuse and recycle to decrease the amount of trash that is being generated. The SMART program typically cuts the amount of trash in half by imposing a bag fee which creates an incentive to reduce trash generation. First Selectman Fortuna stated that Old Saybrook currently has \$115K budgeted for solid waste. He explained that implementing the SMART program would not be a cost to residents on top of that- it would be instead of that. The cost to residents would depend upon the amount of

trash they produce themselves. The program also benefits the environment by moving more materials out of the trash stream and into other streams such as recycling, thrift shops, charities, etc. which could also provide local jobs. The SMART program would only affect those residents that use the transfer station. Residents that use private haulers will probably see their fees increase as the cost of trash disposal increases. Mr. Fortuna stated that there has been a reduction in trash at the transfer station since the stickers were implemented. Ms. Brown stated that experience shows the SMART program does not cause an increase in illegal dumping, and she has helped at least 100 towns implement this program. Mr. Fortuna explained the SMART program is being considered because there is a garbage problem that needs to be addressed and this is a tried and true solution. An audience member asked if there is a short video explaining the program. Ms. Brown stated there are videos available but none that are designed to provide a short explanation. She would be interested in producing one, perhaps in cooperation with the High School.

IV. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **Meeting Minutes** of December 12, 2019

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

B. **Correspondence & Announcements** – There were no announcements or correspondence.

C. **Budget Review** – There have been no significant expenditures to review since the last meeting.

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

A. **Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions** – P. Hegge reported that the December APA meeting was cancelled and there were no significant actions of the IWWC to report.

B. **Preserve Management Committee** – G. Sohl was not present to report.

C. **Gateway Conservation Commission** - T. Gezo reported that there was no December meeting, only a special session to address an issue in East Haddam. Agenda items for next month involving Old Saybrook include changes to the zoning code regarding 1) material removal, fill and excavation, and 2) athletic field lighting.

D. **Sustainable CT Team** - K. Hartshorn reported that she attended a Sustainable CT team meeting to discuss Action 2: Well Stewarded Land and Natural Resources. The Conservation Commission will champion a Watershed Health Pledge (Action 2.1.1c.) C. Nelson developed a draft pledge for the commission to consider.

.VI. **PROJECT WORK: Plastics Initiative**

Film Series Update – C. Picklo drafted a document “Ideas for Environmental Festival” for the Commission to consider. K. Hartshorn reported that she saw a number of films on the CRCCD website, all longer than one hour. Films, speakers, topics and length of program were discussed.

The Commission's first choice is the film "Ice on Fire", and second choice is either "The Human Element" or another film. P. Hegge will find out if the Land Use Department should be the entity that rents the OSMS auditorium. T. Gezo will reach out to Kathy Connolly to see if she will be a speaker on the topic of native and invasive species. C. Picklo will try to find a speaker on the topic of transfer station composting. P. Hegge will look into composting specialists. Someone from the Commission will reach out to Larry Bonin to ask if he will speak on the topic of bioextraction.

VII. **OTHER PROJECT UPDATES**

- A. **Quarterly Newsletter – Next Topic** – J. Bradley will resend his article to R. Esty and will reach out to another Ecology Club member to contribute an article for a future newsletter. C. Picklo will contribute an article about the film series. Articles are due to R. Esty by March 6.

VIII. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** - The slate of officers was presented as follows:

Chairman – Richard Esty
Vice Chairman – Christine Picklo
Secretary – Kelly Hartshorn

MOTION to Elect the slate of officers as presented; **MADE** by T. Gezo and **SECONDED** by K. Hartshorn; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, K. Hartshorn, C. Picklo, T. Gezo; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None.; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission on February 11, 2020, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 302 Main Street; **MADE** by T. Gezo and **SECONDED** by C. Picklo; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Esty, T. Gezo, K. Hartshorn, C. Picklo; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynette Wacker
Recording Clerk