



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Conservation Commission**

*Vacancy, Chairman*  
*Christine Picklo, Vice Chair*  
*Kelly Hartshorn, Secretary*

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*Donna Leake*  
*Larry Ritzhaupt*  
*Thomas Gezo*  
*Alyse Oziolor*

*Joe Bradley, Student Rep.*

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Via Teleconference

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present**

Christine Picklo (acting as Chairman), Kelly Hartshorn (arrived at 7:10), Donna Leake, Tom Gezo, Larry Ritzhaupt, Alyse Oziolor and Student Rep. Joe Bradley

**Members Absent**

None

**Land Use Department Staff**

Patrick Hegge, Environmental Planner; Lynette Wacker, Recording Clerk

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

C. Picklo announced that R. Esty has had to vacate his position as Chairman, and offered to chair the meetings until the Commission holds its next elections. L. Ritzhaupt offered to act as Vice-Chair in the meantime. C. Picklo introduced new Conservation Commission member Alyse Oziolor, who stated that she has an environmental science background and is an environmental consultant. The members welcomed Alyse to the Commission.

**MOTION** to appoint Alyse Oziolor as the Conservation Commission's representative to the In-land Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and to the Aquifer Protection Agency; **MADE** by C. Picklo and **SECONDED** by T. Gezo; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, T. Gezo, D. Leake, L. Ritzhaupt, A. Oziolor; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**IV. REGULAR BUSINESS****A. Meeting Minutes** of February 12, 2020

**MOTION** to approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2020 as presented; **MADE** by T. Gezo and **SECONDED** by L. Ritzhaupt; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, T. Gezo, D. Leake, L. Ritzhaupt, A. Oziolor; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

**B. Correspondence & Announcements** – None.**C. Budget Review** – None.**V. COMMITTEE, REPRESENTATIVE & STAFF REPORTS****A. Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions** – P. Hegge and A. Oziolor briefly reported on the applications the IWWC has been reviewing.**B. Preserve Management Committee** – C. Picklo asked if any of the members would be interested in stepping into G. Sohl's former roll as the Conservation Commission's liaison to the Preserve Management Committee. There was some discussion of the responsibilities involved. C. Picklo to find more information about what the responsibilities would be.**C. Gateway Conservation Commission** - T. Gezo reported that they have been having regular Zoom meetings. There have been no requests for approvals in the past two months. The Ag Extension did a presentation and that report is available online. They also received an update on the effort to establish a NERR in CT, and he will send that info to the commission members if they are interested.**D. Sustainable CT Team** - K. Hartshorn reported that she was unable to post the Watershed Health Pledge on Facebook because the format wasn't compatible. T. Gezo offered to take a look at it. P. Hegge reported that he developed a new open space map as well as a natural resources inventory map, and he will forward the maps to anyone who is interested in seeing them. A. Oziolor asked what the purpose of the maps was, and whether they would be posted on the Town website. P. Hegge was not yet sure if that was the plan. D. Leake stated that the Town is proposing an update to the Plan of Conservation and Development, Economic Development Strategy section.**VI. PROJECT WORK: Plastics Initiative**

**Film Series Update** – C. Picklo reported that it is too early to think about rescheduling the film festival, but they could discuss ways to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. One possibility is to pursue the pollinator garden idea that had been discussed. L. Ritzhaupt would like to focus on expanding the ocean cleanup and promoting composting. T. Gezo suggested a social media campaign, for example: "Show Us Your Composter". He also suggested the Commission get a list of open spaces in the Town and begin to monitor them. A. Oziolor suggested another social media campaign to provide ideas for recycling household items that are usually thrown out. Other ideas were discussed.

J. Bradley reported that he has been picking up trash around town on his own, and has already cleaned up both sides of the causeway. He would like to expand this effort to include other individuals and groups such as the OSHS Ecology Club, and asked if it would be possible for the Conservation Commission promote or endorse this idea. C. Picklo said that they would be happy to, and L. Ritzhaupt also expressed support for the idea. J. Bradley stated that he would welcome recommendations for places that need to be cleaned up. He also stated that he will continue to post conservation information on social media, and encouraged the commission members to send him their ideas for posts.

## VII. OTHER PROJECT UPDATES

- A. **Quarterly Newsletter – Next Topic** – It was decided that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day will be the theme of the next newsletter. K. Hartshorn will contribute an article about pollinator gardens in CT and something about the Watershed Health Pledge. T. Gezo will write an article TBD. C. Picklo will write about composting. A. Oziolor will contribute an article about projects that can be done with kids reusing/recycling household materials. L. Ritzhaupt will contribute some bird photos. Articles are due to C. Picklo by June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- B. **Saybrook Events Magazine**- The deadline is June 3<sup>rd</sup>. C. Picklo will contribute an article about composting and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission on June 9, 2020, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 302 Main Street or via teleconference; **MADE** by L. Ritzhaupt and **SECONDED** by C. Picklo; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, T. Gezo, D. Leake, L. Ritzhaupt, A. Oziolor; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynette Wacker  
Recording Clerk