



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Conservation Commission**

*Christine Picklo, Chairman  
Larry Ritzhaupt, Vice Chair  
Kelly Hartshorn, Secretary*

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*Donna Leake  
Thomas Gezo  
Alyse Oziolor  
Vacancy*

*Joe Bradley, Student Rep.*

**MINUTES**  
REGULAR MEETING  
**Tuesday, June 9, 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, Tom Gezo, Larry Ritzhaupt, Alyse Oziolor (joined at 7:09)

**Members Absent**

Donna Leake, Student Rep. Joe Bradley

**Land Use Department Staff**

Patrick Hegge, Environmental Planner; Christine Nelson, Town Planner; Lynette Wacker, Recording Clerk

**MOTION** to appoint Christine Picklo as Chairman and Larry Ritzhaupt as Vice-Chairman of the Conservation Commission; **MADE** by T. Gezo and **SECONDED** by K. Hartshorn; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, T. Gezo, L. Ritzhaupt; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

III. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **Minutes** – May 2020

**MOTION** to approve the meeting minutes of May 12, 2020 as presented; **MADE** by T. Gezo and **SECONDED** by K. Hartshorn; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, T. Gezo, L. Ritzhaupt; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

B. **Budget Review** – C. Picklo

The end of the fiscal year is approaching. The Conservation Commission's new budget was approved by the Board of Selectmen in May and the new budget year begins in July.

**C. Correspondence & Announcements – K. Hartshorn**

None

**D. Committee, Representative & Staff Reports**

- i. Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions – A. Oziolor  
A. Oziolor had nothing new to report. P. Hegge stated that a couple of minor applications have come in.
- ii. Preserve Management Committee - C. Picklo  
C. Picklo reported that she has volunteered to be the Conservation Commission's liaison to the Preserve Management Committee.
- iii. Gateway Conservation Commission – T. Gezo  
T. Gezo reported that there was a regulation change proposed for Old Saybrook regarding propane storage which was approved. There was also a request for funding for a study of Lord's Cove which is under consideration.
- iv. Sustainable CT Team – L. Wacker & Team  
2.0 Well-Stewarded Land & Natural Resources  
7.0 Strategic & Inclusive Public Services  
  
L. Wacker reported that the Land Use Department is preparing Old Saybrook's application for certification in the Sustainable CT program. Old Saybrook is currently bronze certified and will be applying for silver certification. The application will be submitted in August. The Commission members were invited to a Sustainable CT team meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The Watershed Health Pledge and RiverCOG's compost bin/rain barrel sale could qualify for Sustainable CT credit. The Commission discussed ways to promote those actions, including social media, posting on the Town website and in the Commission's newsletter.
- v. C. Nelson reported that a new "Conservation District" zoning district has been created. This district encompasses the Preserve property which was formerly in the R-C zone. The uses permitted in the Conservation District are those that are appropriate for preserved land, such as recreational facilities, public health and safety, working lands, agriculture, cemeteries, etc., while allowing the economic use of the land in a way that is appropriate. The Conservation Commission could petition the Zoning Commission to convert other dedicated open space properties that have significant constraints to Conservation District zoning.

C. Nelson also addressed the Conservation Commission's goal of updating the Conservation section of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development, which should be updated every 10 years. Ms. Nelson suggested the Commission first become familiar with the current plan which she feels it is still mostly relevant. She also

recommended undertaking some public outreach to determine what the community thinks about the Town's efforts towards stewardship, acquisition, programming, regulation, and other conservation issues.

#### IV. **LAND STEWARDSHIP**

##### A. **Open Space Monitoring** – P. Hegge & Team

T. Gezo reported that he sent the Commission members a link to a Google Drive folder which has a form for open space monitoring along with some examples of how to complete the form. There is a long list of open space parcels within the town. The members discussed starting the monitoring efforts with those parcels that are high profile and high use, as well as those properties most likely to be encroached upon. P. Hegge offered to help manage the monitoring program. Anything that needs attention could be forwarded to Parks and Rec. T. Gezo will put together a check list.

##### B. **Pollinator Garden** (Pickleball Park) – K. Hartshorn

K. Hartshorn reported that she is looking into a grant to establish a pollinator garden with native plants. The location would be the rain garden in the center of the parking lot of the Main Street park. She is also looking into crowdfunding through ioby, a program through Sustainable CT, and the possibility of having a mural painted on the side wall of the building facing the park. Permission from the building's owner to be sought.

##### C. **Ocean Cleanup** – J. Bradley & L. Ritzhaupt

L. Ritzhaupt will provide an update before the next meeting. L. Ritzhaupt left the meeting due to technical difficulties.

##### D. **Earth Day 2020** – Team

C. Picklo reported that it is too soon to think about rescheduling the Film Festival. A. Oziolor reported that she found several ideas for crafts using repurposed materials which they could post on social media. They could also do some composting posts.

#### V. **OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

##### A. **Conservation Circular** (Earth Day 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) – C. Picklo

The due date for the next newsletter is June 19<sup>th</sup>. C. Picklo will write an article about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. T. Gezo will write an article about easy things to do to be kind to the environment. L. Ritzhaupt will contribute wildlife pictures. A. Oziolor will write an article about repurposing/crafts. K. Hartshorn will include the Watershed Health Pledge.

##### B. **Social Media** – J. Bradley & Team

J. Bradley was not present to report.

**C. Old Saybrook Events Magazine** (All Initiatives) – Team

- Deadline for Q3: 9/4/20

C. Nelson reported that P. Hegge regularly submits articles about storm water quality and L. Wacker about Sustainable CT. C. Picklo suggested discussing additional ideas at the next two meetings. There was a discussion about changing the Commission's logo.

**D. Special Projects**

None.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission on July 14, 2020, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 302 Main Street or via teleconference; **MADE** by T. Gezo and **SECONDED** by K. Hartshorn; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, T. Gezo, A. Oziolor; **OPPOSED:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynette Wacker  
Recording Clerk