



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK Conservation Commission

*Christine Picklo, Chair
Larry Ritzhaupt, Vice Chairman
Karen Giugno, Secretary*

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*Peter D. DeLisa
Deborah E. Mapes
Laurie Pavlos
Nina D. Regan
Talía Bauer, Student Rep.*

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

HYBRID MEETING

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

Public Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94288192022?pwd=anFIWXp2MWpMaE1ESjhoeTBQWUN5dz09>

Dial In: 929-436-2866 Meeting ID: 942 8819 2022 Passcode: 302302

One Tap Mobile: tel://9294362866,,94288192022#

For assistance with virtual meetings, please see "Zoom Meetings" on the Town web site.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Picklo called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Christine Picklo, Chair; Peter DeLisa; Karen Giugno;
Deborah Mapes; Laurie Pavlos; Nina Regan; Talia Bauer, Student Rep

Members Absent: Larry Ritzhaupt

Land Use Department Staff Present: Krista May, Recording Clerk

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – September 12, 2023

C Picklo asked for a change to C ii to read: the new trail from the parking lot is in the process of being blazed and it is proving difficult because of rocks and vegetation.

D. Mapes asked for a change: she wrote an article about composting and food scraps recycling.

MOTION to approve the minutes of September 12, 2023 including the two amendments
MADE: C Picklo **SECONDED:** D. Mapes; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo; P. DeLisa;
K. Giugno; D. Mapes; L. Pavlos; N. Regan; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None.
APPROVED: 6-0-0

B. Correspondence and Announcements

Location for CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) on Saturday, November 11th has not been announced yet. Info will be distributed when received.

K Giugno signed up for the Native Plants and Pollinators Conference at UCONN.

C. Committee, Representative and Staff Reports (Significant Update Only)

i. Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions – P. DeLisa

P. DeLisa did not attend the last meeting. There will be a vote on Whole Foods proposal next Thursday.

ii. Preserve Management Committee – C. Picklo

Did not meet at the end of September. No report.

iii. Old Saybrook Land Trust – L. Pavlos

Laurie Pavlos attended the last meeting. Ayres Point was discussed. There is concern about a property on Sheffield Street asking for zoning permission to build units along the wetlands. The transfer of the Maynard property on the Oyster River was discussed.

iv. Parks and Rec – L. Ritzhaupt

L. Ritzhaupt not present. No report.

v. Student Rep. – T. Bauer

Ecology Club had to reschedule the coastal day clean-up for Town Beach and Harvey's Beach. Laurie asked for pictures to post on Facebook. T. Bauer asked if there were any projects the club could help with. The possibility of organizing a walk in Great Cedar East was suggested.

vi. Sustainable CT – L. Wacker

C Picklo reported for L. Wacker. The Town of Old Saybrook was awarded silver certification. This is the second time and the status remains for three years. The next application will be 2026. A strategy will be developed to involve other departments in the process.

D. Action Tracker

K. Giugno discussed completed and current items on the Action Tracker.

IV. LAND STEWARDSHIP

A. **Open Space Monitoring** – changed to L. Pavlos

The list has been in process for three or four years now. There are 187 parcels many with no addresses. The list is not in a format that is useful and there are no distinguishing features on the map. L. Pavlos will analyze the list more fully and group some properties together. As a Commission, there must be a list. One question – is the map cross documented with lot numbers? It's unclear what the previous process was – some background information is needed. Maybe the Assessors Department could assist or L. Wacker to provide some insight. L. Pavlos and N. Regan will meet to work on the list together.

B. **Pollinator Pathway & Education** – D. Mapes & K. Giugno

C. D Mapes met with Bonnie Penders at the gardens. She made suggestions about plants to transfer from Saybrook Point. Golden Rod is a fantastic pollinator. Suggestions and ideas such as aerating the soil was discussed. The timing of watering has been changed – it starts at 7am now. K. Giugno and D. Mapes purchased four Inkberry bushes that will be planted in the Fall. Trash was collected and areas cleaned up. The vision for the gardens will be contemplated over the Winter.

D. **Kayak Launch & Other Improvements** – L. Ritzhaupt

L. Ritzhaupt not present. No report.

D. **Tree Preservation**

Approximately 12 people attended the SOS (Save our Shade) meeting. The primary objective is to secure grant money to buy trees for distribution to private properties who want to plant trees. The aim is to help people make the right choices for the right trees. The group wants to educate people about how important trees are to the climate. It was a good initial meeting. In particular, a list of trees with pictures and details of heights and widths was useful.

V. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

A. **Conservation Circular & Saybrook Events Magazine Q3** (Due Nov 15 for late Dec. - March events)

Quarterly circular with four articles was sent to Essex Printing. The circular will be printed and will be available online. Printed copies are at the Town Hall and Chamber of Commerce.

Next issue of Events magazine comes out December 18. An article about Dark Skies could be submitted for March issue (deadline in February).

B. Commission Webpage and Additional Outreach

L. Pavlos will ask Lynette about admin privileges for Facebook. There should be an effort to encourage people to follow the Conservation Commission on Facebook and access the webpage.

C. Waste Reduction

A research document published by UCONN was introduced for members to read and discuss at the next meeting. C. Picklo commented that there is good information on directions to take for the future. Educating the public is something the Commission could do. Perhaps there could be a meeting outside of the Commission to brainstorm ideas. Education about rain barrels would be helpful.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Christine Picklo adjourned the meeting at 6:04pm until the next regularly scheduled hybrid meeting on November 14th, 2023 at the Town Hall.

**NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED
HYBRID MEETING**

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Town Hall 2nd floor conference room

302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

Check our website for dial in information and additional
meeting documents.

[Conservation Commission web page](#)

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