



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
Talia Bauer, Student Rep.*

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES HYBRID MEETING Tuesday, November 14, 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 5:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Christine Picklo, Chair; Peter DeLisa; Deborah Mapes;
Laurie Pavlos; Talia Bauer, Student Rep
Members Absent: Karen Giugno; Nina Regan; Larry Ritzhaupt
Land Use Department Staff Present: Lynette Wacker, Assistant Town Planner;
Krista May, Recording Clerk

III NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024 Meeting Calendar

MOTION to approve the calendar of meetings for 2024 **MADE:** P. DeLisa
SECONDED: D. Mapes **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo; P. DeLisa; D. Mapes; L. Pavlos;
OPPOSED: None; **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0

IV REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – October 10, 2023

MOTION to approve the minutes of October 10, 2023 **MADE:** D. Mapes
SECONDED: C Picklo; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo; P. DeLisa; D. Mapes; L. Pavlos;
OPPOSED: None; **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0

B. Correspondence and Announcements

C Picklo, L. Pavlos and P. DeLisa attended the CACIWC (Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) on Saturday, November 11th. Peter commented that the Keynote speaking about Climate Change was excellent. Laurie reported on the workshops she attended. Conservation Commission members are encouraged to subscribe to other town department meeting agendas to keep informed of projects that the OS Conservation Commission should comment on. Christine informed the Commission about the Waste Water workshop where the plan is to decrease Storm Water run-off by 1% each year for the next 30 years.

C Picklo asked to table item VII on the agenda until the December meeting.

L Wacker distributed the OS Conservation and Development town plan.

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

- i. **Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions** – P. DeLisa
Whole Foods was approved. Nothing else to report.
- ii. **Preserve Management Committee** – C. Picklo
New trail from the parking lot has been completed. Red markers are needed. There is a bridge over one of the trails that needs to be repaired. There is concern about hunting in the Preserve and there will be a meeting with DEP. L. Pavlos spoke about the increase of duck hunting in South Cove. The vernal pool study was delayed but should be done by end of October.
- iii. **Old Saybrook Land Trust** – L. Pavlos
OSLT sent out their fundraising mailer to all OS residents. There will be an event on Sunday, December 10th. They are looking for volunteers to join clean up teams specific to the area where a resident lives.
- iv. **Parks and Rec** – L. Ritzhaupt
L. Ritzhaupt not present. No report.

- v. **Student Rep.** – T. Bauer
Ecology Club trail marking event on October 28th went well with eight students attending. Some clearing of trails needs to be done. Talia reported that there are 20 members of the Ecology Club this year.
- vi. **Sustainable CT** – L. Wacker
L. Wacker reported there is a new category called Climate Leader Designation. Certain actions will address the Climate Change issue. OS did not achieve this status but might try to achieve it in future. Lynette reported that 500 points are needed to achieve Silver status and OS got 940 points. L. Wacker provided T. Bauer with a folder of information to review – extra credit for youth involvement is awarded and can help the application. L. Wacker discussed ideas that could support the application such as increasing recycling efforts and composting. There is a Community Match Fund available to groups such as SOS (Save Our Shade). Whatever can be raised will be matched up to \$7,500. Lynette distributed a flyer that summarizes the work of Sustainable CT.

D. **Action Tracker**

K. Giugno was not in attendance so no report.

V. **LAND STEWARDSHIP**

- A. **Open Space Monitoring** – changed to L. Pavlos
L. Wacker presented the first draft of a map detailing town owned open space parcels including addresses. L. Pavlos will look at the map and report back to Lynette. N. Regan and L. Pavlos will meet to discuss organizing the 187 parcels.
- B. **Pollinator Pathway & Education** – D. Mapes & K. Giugno
D Mapes and K. Giugno went to Plant and Pollinator conference at UCONN. The event was well attended and the speakers informative. Topics included honey bees and plants that are good for them, plants for instant pollinator garden habitats, and monarch butterflies. Planting in the OS pollinator garden will not be done until Spring. It was hoped that some leaves can stay to protect the garden rather than have all be blown away. Other ideas for pollinator projects will be considered over the winter.
- C. **Kayak Launch & Other Improvements** – L. Ritzhaupt
L. Ritzhaupt not present. No report.

D. Tree Preservation

SOS (Save Our Shade) asked if the Conservation Commission would be willing to make a donation to the group so they can buy trees in the spring. They are crowd funding. L. Wacker will get more information.

VI. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

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

Quarterly circular is done. No articles are needed for the next edition of Events Magazine. An article about Dark Skies could be submitted for the March issue (deadline in February).

B. Commission Webpage and Additional Outreach

L. Pavlos has admin privileges for Facebook and is looking into how to link info on the web page through Facebook. The possibility of a Sustainable Saybrook Instagram account was discussed. There is good material on the website and the Commission should make efforts to direct people to Facebook.

C. Waste Reduction

There was a discussion about a group concerned with the sale of nips and the plastic waste they create. C. Picklo agreed to bring this issue up with the Commission and explained that a bill will be proposed at the State level.

VII DISCUSSION: Commission Goals for 2024

Tabled until December meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Christine Picklo adjourned the meeting at 6:19pm until the next regularly scheduled hybrid meeting on December 12th at the Town Hall.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED
HYBRID MEETING
Tuesday, December 12, 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](https://www.oldsaybrookct.gov)

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