



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Parks & Recreation Commission

*Susan Esty, Chairman
Kevin Lane, Vice Chair
Star Rueckert, Secretary*

www.oldsaybrookct.gov

*Jim Henderson
Tom Boland
Nancy Gatta
Steven Pernal*

**OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 11, 2019; 6:30 PM**

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Vice Chair Kevin Lane called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.
Present were: Director Ray Allen, Jim Henderson, Steven Pernal, Kevin Lane, Nancy Gatta & Star Rueckert via phone
Absent: Tom Boland, Susan Esty
Also present: Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk & Jonathan Paradis, Ass't Director
2. **Approval of August 14, 2019 Meeting** – A motion to accept the August 14, 2019 minutes was made by Jim Henderson seconded by Nancy Gatta and approved.
3. **Recognition of Guests** – none
4. **Correspondence** – none
5. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills #101 through #154 dated September 11, 2019 in the amount of \$29,156.39.
6. **Public Comments** – Jack Walsh, an Old Saybrook Eagle Scout, was given the floor to present his project of improving the mile-long blue trail at Great Cedars East. He plans to re-blaze the trail, make it wider in some areas, affix blue aluminum trail markers to trees and add map boxes at the trail head and where it intersects with the red trail. His budget is \$850 which will be fundraised by himself and he hopes to have it complete by snowfall. The Director and Commission were supportive of the project and gave him the go-ahead. About 40 members of the Trask Road senior tennis group were in attendance. Lucy Grover, group coordinator, spoke on their behalf. She detailed the poor conditions of the tennis courts at Trask Road (Kavanagh Park) and said they have become a safety hazard. The group is very active and wants to see improvements made. Director Ray Allen thanked the group for their concerns and outlined the bidding and funding process. Restoration of the Kavanagh Park tennis courts went to bid in Feb/March 2019 and a bid was approved by the Park & Rec Commission in June. The project is currently awaiting Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance review and funding. If funding is allocated, the project will go to town meeting for final approval. The Director stated the tennis group will have the most impact if they attend the selectmen and finance meetings to show support for the restoration project.
7. **Old Business**
 - A. **All Parks Review** – Director Ray Allen reported soccer season has started and all fields have been lined and the new sod at Ferry Road took. In the next week, fields will be aerated and seeded. Fields are currently watered 4 times a week. Beaches are closed down, but mini golf is open weekends and going strong.
 - B. **Preserve Update** – The Conservation Management Committee did not meet in August, but there is a meeting on Sept. 13, 2019 that the Director will attend.

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C. Strategic plan of Parks Update – Kevin Lane has spoken with the First Selectman and the Board of Finance. He asked the Commission if they should move forward with the strategic plan. After discussion, members agreed to move forward with a strategic plan as it will provide a professional, outside opinion to help focus the Commission's future planning. It was noted, parks and facilities that drive positive economic impacts on the town should be highlighted as should Main Street Park & Gardiner's Landing. Kevin Lane will provide a quote for the plan at the next meeting.

D. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – Nancy Gatta commented the sidewalks at the pickle ball courts look great.

8. New Business

A. Jack Walsh, Eagle Scout Project– Presentation moved to Item 6.

B. Park Projects Discussion- Director Ray Allen distributed a master park maintenance needs/project list. He welcomes any input from members and noted this list can be used in collaboration with the strategic plan. Kevin Lane suggested water irrigation at Maple Avenue Field should be added to the list. There was general discussion about Little League's request for a 50/70 field.

C. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel– Assistant Director Jonathan Paradis distributed an end-of-year program review packet that included income reports, statistics, budgets and demographics from August 2018 to August 2019. Programs had 404 more participants than last year and this was one the highest grossing years in a while. This was the first summer Park and Recreation managed the youth summer stock theatre program. The possibility of an after school pickle ball program at the high school was discussed.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report – none

B. Director's Report – Director Ray Allen reviewed income totals. Harvey's Beach had the most successful year yet and mini golf is already above the 2018 total. He noted, next year on the Fourth of July, the beaches should open at 8:00am. He has received many compliments on life guard and parking attendant staff.

C. Liaison Reports – none

Meeting adjourned at 7:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Clerk

****NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 9, 2019****