



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Parks & Recreation Commission

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

Jim Henderson

Tom Boland

Nancy Gatta

Steven Pernal

www.oldsaybrookct.gov

**OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, October 9, 2019; 6:30 PM

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:33p.m.
Present were: Director Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Tom Boland, Steven Pernal, Nancy Gatta & Star Rueckert (left meeting at 7:24pm)
Absent: Kevin Lane, Jim Henderson
Also present: Jonathan Paradis, Assistant Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk
2. **Approval of September 11, 2019 Meeting** – MOTION to accept the September 11, 2019 minutes was made by Tom Boland seconded by Nancy Gatta and approved 4 yes 0 no 1 abstaining.
3. **Recognition of Guests** – none
4. **Correspondence** – none
5. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills #155 through #205 dated October 9, 2019 in the amount of \$30,011.87.
6. **Public Comments** – none
7. **Old Business**
 - A. **All Parks Review** – Director Ray Allen reported all irrigation will be shut down at the end of October and mini golf will close Columbus Day weekend. Demolition of the tennis court fence at Kavanagh Park has begun. After further inspection, the tennis poles and center straps will have to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$6,000. All parks will be closed for the season at the end of October. The department followed the lead of the school system in regard to the EEE mosquito virus threat and closed fields and parks accordingly.
 - B. **Parks Projects Discussion** – Director Ray Allen opened discussion regarding what new facilities the Commission would like to see at Main Street Park. The following items were suggested: additional pickle ball courts, dog park, ice skating rink, aquatic center, skate park, fitness park, pump track for bikes and addition of a bathroom and water fountain. There was discussion on how to involve the townspeople in this process. It was decided at the November meeting a list of solid ideas and their approximate costs will be presented. From there, feedback from the public will be sought. Susan Esty asked to have a new Master Park Maintenance Need/Projects list that does not include yearly maintenance items. This revised list will allow the Commission to approach the Board of Finance and demonstrate the scope of the Parks & Recreation Department and the need for further funding.
 - C. **Preserve update**- Chair Susan Esty attended the Conservation Management Committee (CMC) meeting where ATV usage was discussed. There are little answers for the problem besides catching individuals in the act. It is the responsibility of the DEEP and the local police departments to enforce the no ATV policy. Perk pipes and silt fencing still need to be

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

removed. Monies held by the State have been approved for signs. The natural diversity database report is overdue. She also discussed the need for coordination of 911 services among the three towns when a call concerns the Preserve area.

D. Strategic plan of Parks Update – Kevin Lane had reported to the Director that he reached out to the company and a quote has yet to be received.

E. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – None

8. New Business

A. Saybrook Point Parking Lot Review– The Director would like to see the project completed in the off season. Larry Bonin, Public Works Director, will do traffic sign installation and line striping. The Chief of Police, Michael Spera, doesn't like the bump out at the north curve and there is not enough radius for auto-turn on emergency vehicles. MOTION to accept the safety traffic pattern changes including adding a larger radius and removing the bump out made by Susan Esty and seconded by Steven Pernal and unanimously approved.

B. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – Director Ray Allen showed renderings of the new uniform park signs. A total of 9 large and 5 small signs are needed. Large signs have slats for donor names. The total cost for all signs is \$17,629. Nancy Gatta suggested doing a press event to highlight the new signs and the efforts of the department.

Assistant Director Jona Paradis gave a programs update including the pickle ball tournament, adult dodgeball and indoor soccer which starts in November. He then gave a presentation on a grant program from the United States Tennis Association (USTA). The grant can fund up to \$20,000 of improvements that support tennis programming. It is the intention to use the grant money to add lighting to the Kavanagh Park tennis courts. Zoning regulations allow for lights on tennis courts. He outlined the application process and mandatory requirements for the grant. After discussion, the Commission decided to move forward with the USTA grant application for lighting at Kavanagh Park.

The Director reported on a meeting with the Chair and the Rotary Club. The Rotary Club was open to donating to the cost to build a disk golf course at Clark Community Park. They would like to see signs with their logo or name and would like to see the course professionally done and work contracted out. They will put forth the initial cost, but not be responsible for maintenance. MOTION made to approve and proceed with the planning and installation of a disk golf course at Clark Community Park made by Tom Boland second by Nancy Gatta and unanimously approved.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report – Chair Susan Esty reported she had a busy month and attended the following meetings: CMC meeting Sept 13th, Board of Finance meeting Sept 17th, Town Meeting Sept 17th, Community Day Sept 21st, Clean Up Day Sept 21st, Preserve Ad Hoc meeting Sept 26th and the Rotary meeting Oct 7th.

B. Director's Report – Director Ray Allen reviewed income totals. Total of all sites combined for the year 2019 contributed \$329,663.25 to the town's general fund. There was discussion about having a capital sinking fund for the department. Chair Susan Esty would like to see on the November agenda an item about speaking with the Board of Finance to obtain a capital sinking fund for the Parks & Recreation department.

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Jonathan Paradis reported he attended a bike safety meeting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. He asked if a commission member would like to join an ad hoc committee on bike safety if one is formed. This item will be added to the liaison reports section of the November meeting.

Nancy Gatta noted the May and June 2019 minutes are missing from the website.

C. Liaison Reports – none

MOTION to adjourn at 8:06p.m. made by Tom Boland second by Steven Pernal and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Antoline

Recording Clerk

****NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 13, 2019****