



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, November 13, 2019; 6:30 PM

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.
Present were: Director Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Steven Pernal, Nancy Gatta (arrived at 6:36pm) Star Rueckert & Jim Henderson
Absent: Tom Boland & Kevin Lane
Also present: Jonathan Paradis, Assistant Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk
2. **Approval of October 9, 2019 Meeting** – MOTION to accept the October 9, 2019 minutes was made by Jim Henderson seconded by Star Rueckert and unanimously approved. (Nancy Gatta not present for vote).
3. **Recognition of Guests** – Bror Ashe, new commissioner effective Nov. 19, 2019.
4. **Correspondence** – none
5. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills #206 through #260 dated November 13, 2019 in the amount of \$84,695.29.
6. **Public Comments-** none
7. **Old Business**
 - A. **All Parks Review** – Director Ray Allen reported the Kavanaugh Park tennis court renovations are on hold until spring, but the fencing is installed. All other parks are shut down for winter. Susan Esty would like to see the porta-potty at Harvey's Beach moved away from the water ponding area. Ray can try to get it moved. The cardboard at the Exchange Club pond also needs to be removed.
 - B. **Parks Projects Discussion** – The commissioners discussed their top ideas for the next phase of Main Street Park: Star Rueckert- ice rink & skate park, Steven Pernal- ice rink, Nancy Gatta- ice rink, lights, skate park & dog park, Jim Henderson- ice rink, dog park & bathroom facilities, Susan Esty- ice rink, volley ball pit, dog park & bathroom facilities. After discussion, it was decided Ray Allen will report to the First Selectmen that the Commission has chosen an ice rink as the next phase of Main Street Park.
 - C. **Preserve Update-** Ray Allen will meet with Kathy Connolly and a trail maintainer in the Preserve's trails to explore possible grant opportunities to fund necessary trail work. Possible grant money would be funded through the Trust for Public Land. The public works department is clearing the cul-de-sac at the end of Ingham Hill Rd. Susan Esty will reintroduce the parking plan as its elevation level could affect vernal pools.
 - D. **Strategic Plan of Parks Update** – Ray Allen reported that Kevin Lane wants to meet with the Board of Finance on December 3rd. He would like to see other commissioners there as well. The new, lower price of completing a strategic plan will be presented. The plan will focus on revenue generating facilities, such as, beaches, Saybrook Point & Kavanaugh Park.

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E. Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – Nancy Gatta would like to see more pictures of the parks & rec facilities on the town website. Jona Paradis noted this can be done internally and he will work on improvements.

8. New Business

A. P&R Commission Meeting Dates 2020 – MOTION to accept the 2020 meeting schedule as amended was made by Jim Henderson seconded by Steve Pernal and unanimously approved.

B. 2020-2021 Budget Discussion– Ray Allen presented preliminary budgets including the recreation budget, mini golf budget, pavilion budget & parks budget. He will have a fuller update at the December meeting. Susan Esty began discussion about parking at Saybrook Point and any effects on the budget. Ideas, such as, a parking attendant, chaining the area, towing, mobile signage and painting colored lines were discussed. Susan Esty will write a letter to Saybrook Point Inn regarding their employees' use of the Saybrook Point Park parking area.

There was discussion regarding bathroom facilities and its effect on the budget. There is a great need for year-around facilities at Saybrook Point and Main Street Park. The money to pay for these permanent facilities should be a capital expense line-item. Susan Esty will send a letter to the First Selectman outlining the need for public bathrooms.

C. Discussion of Possible P&R Sinking Fund- The need for a capital expense sinking fund was discussed. It was agreed a fixed amount of \$25,000 per year would be appropriate. Ray Allen and Susan Esty will meet with the First Selectmen about creating the fund. After which, it will then be presented to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

D Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel- Jona Paradis reported the January-March programs booklet will be available on December 1st. Regulation pickle balls courts have set up in the gym and there is a large turn-out for indoor youth soccer. The snowman championship will take place Jan. 18th with water hopefully donated by the CT Water Co. The Westbrook Preserve walk is this weekend and on Dec. 7th there will be a professional basketball clinic with the CT Sun basketball players.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report – Susan Esty reported she attended the Preserve Ad Hoc meeting.

B. Director's Report – Ray Allen reviewed income totals from 2019. Overall, it is the best combined year, best year for Harvey's beach & second highest year for mini golf. The commission's new executive board will be elected at the December 11th meeting.

C. Liaison Reports – none

MOTION to adjourn at 8:07p.m. made by Nancy Gatta second by Star Rueckert and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk

NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2019