

TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Parks & Recreation Commission

*Susan Esty, Chairman
Kevin Lane, Vice Chair
Jim Henderson, Secretary*

www.oldsaybrookct.gov

*Star Rueckert
Bror Ashe
Nancy Gatta
Steven Pernal*

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

Wednesday, November 10, 2021; 6:30 PM
Meeting Held Via Web Access/Dial In

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, Kevin Lane, Star Rueckert, Jim Henderson, Bror Ashe & Nancy Gatta
Absent: Steven Pernal
Also present: Jona Paradis, Assistant Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk

MOTION to add bicycle air pumps and ARPA to agenda under new business made by Susan Esty and 2nd Jim Henderson and unanimously approved.

2. **Approval of October 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Motion to accept the minutes of October 13, 2021 made by Bror Ashe, seconded by Jim Henderson unanimously approved.
3. **Recognition of Guests** – 2 members of the public on the call.
4. **Correspondence** – None
5. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills for the month of October in the amount of \$25,439.30.
6. **Public Comments**- None
7. **New Business**
 - A. **Commission Meeting Dates 2022**- Meeting dates are attached. MOTION to approve Parks and Recreation 2022 meeting schedule made by Kevin Lane 2nd Jim Henderson and unanimously approved.
 - B. **Covid-19 Monument Discussion**- Ray Allen reported resident Rich Carter has resent his proposal for a Covid-19 monument. Susan Esty stated the town would need to create a monument on public land policy. Typically, policies need to be reviewed by the necessary boards and go before a vote and this can take time. There was discussion among commissioners. The Chair will table the discussion until additional information is received by the commission.
 - C. **Bicycle Air Pumps**- Jim Henderson introduced the idea of having free-standing bicycle air pumps installed at strategic locations around town. Locations such as, the Preserver, the Point, the rec center and beaches were discussed. Jim will work with Ray Allen on this project.
 - D. **ARPA Committee**- ARPA (American Relief Plan Act) funds are available to the town. The First Selectman would like a representative of the commission to join an ARPA Ad Hoc Committee. Interested commissioners should contact Susan Esty..
 - E. **Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel**- None

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

8. Old Business

A. **All Parks Review** – Ray Allen stated parks are in really good shape and are shut down for the season. Winter porta potties will be available at Clark Park, beaches and the Pavillion.

B. **Strategic Plan of Parks Discussion-** Kevin Lane outlined the next step in the project should be an engineering plan for Clark Community Park. Board members discussed recruiting and marketing for ongoing community support and also grant funding methods. Ray Allen has met with Rob LeMire to create a Frisbee golf plan which can be incorporated in the engineering plan.

C. **Preserve Update-** Ray Allen reported they are still waiting on the forest management plan which, hopefully, will be done January 2022. After which time the recreation trails plan can be designed and completed.

D. **Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel-** Jona Paradis gave a programs update: Trunk or Treat was success with 15 cars and hundreds of guests, indoor soccer has started with 8 teams for 5 weeks, basketball registration has begun and after school programs are sold out. The rec department will be participating in an EDC event Saybrook Starlight on Sat. Dec 4th. Jona wanted to thank the Board of Education for their flexibility and support with programs. Programs is in need of a volunteer to lead a snow showing event/hike- if you know of anyone, reach out to Jona. Jim Henderson commented on the condition of Mill Pond and the fish ladder. Parks and rec and public works will look into the issue and notify the Conservation Commission.

9. Reports

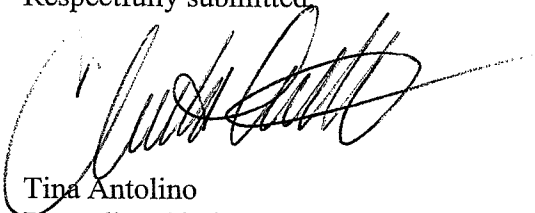
A. **Chairman's Report** – No new report except the Trunk or Treat event was amazing.

B. **Director's Report** – Hybrid meetings will be held moving forward. The December meeting will be grab bag and pot luck working meeting and election of officers will take place.

C. **Liaison Reports** – Nancy Gatta reported on the turf lights committee. This Saturday 13th will be a comedy show fundraiser and a brick fundraiser will soon be introduced. The Police Department has given a \$20,000 donation through "Shorts for Sports". The goal is for there to be lights on the field Fall 2022.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:31p m. made by Kevin Lane seconded by Jim Henderson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Antolino
Recording Clerk

NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2021

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

The Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on the following dates and times at the Parks and Recreation Center in 2022. (The second Wednesday of each month in the year 2022)

January 12th 2022 6:30PM
February 9th 2022 6:30PM
March 9th 2022 6:30PM
April 13th 2022 6:30PM
May 11th 2021 6:30PM
June 8th 2022 6:30PM
July 13th 2022 6:30PM
August 10th 2022 6:30PM
September 14th 2022 6:30PM
October 12th 2022 6:30PM
November 9th 2022 6:30PM
December 14th 2022 6:30PM

PROPOSAL TO CREATE A COVID-19 TRIBUTE IN OLD SAYBROOK, CT

Date: October 23, 2021
To: Old Saybrook Parks & Rec Commission Members, Ray Allen, Carl Fortuna
From: Rich Carter
Re: Proposal to Create a Covid-19 Tribute in Old Saybrook, CT

BACKGROUND: The Covid-19 Pandemic has been a life-changing event for all of us. The Connecticut State Legislature has introduced a bill to explore the creation of a memorial dedicated to those who lost their lives from effects of the Covid-19 virus. The proposed Old Saybrook Tribute is designed to honor members of society who kept us going through the pandemic. The Tribute will be a permanent feature to remind all future generations of the extraordinary efforts and personal sacrifices of so many ordinary people to ensure our health, safety and well-being over a protracted period of time.

PURPOSES OF THE TRIBUTE:

1. To recognize and honor groups of individuals who have been instrumental in getting us through the pandemic
2. To provide historical background information regarding the pandemic
3. To preserve pandemic artifacts
4. To thank major supporters of the Tribute

COMPONENTS OF THE TRIBUTE – The Tribute is designed to be relatively maintenance-free through the use of granite and bronze. There are three major components – see schematic draft on separate page:

1. **8 Granite Pillars** each engraved with one of the groups being recognized
 - a. Healthcare Providers
 - b. First Responders
 - c. Frontline Essential Workers
 - d. Public Services
 - e. Educators
 - f. Scientists
 - g. Families
 - h. Friends
2. **2 Bronze Plaques Supported by Granite Columns:**
 - a. A large plaque providing background information about the pandemic and the contributions of those being honored – sample text included on separate page
 - b. A smaller plaque listing and thanking major supporters
3. **Time Capsule** containing artifacts from the Covid-19 Pandemic to be opened at a designated future date

LOCATION: The Tribute should be located in a public space that is: 1) highly visible for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic, 2) easily accessible and 3) have available parking. The requested location is the grassy area between the public sidewalk and the parking lot at Main Street Park.

COST OF THE TRIBUTE:

- Approximately \$15,000 as proposed.
- Cost will rise if prices of materials increase or significant changes are made to the proposed specs.
- A variety of fundraising approaches may be needed to raise necessary funds with the initial focus on major donors.
 - Fundraising will be coordinated by Old Saybrook resident, Rich Carter

This proposal is submitted by Rich Carter, who spearheaded the creation of a significant Veterans Memorial in Vermont honoring nearly 1,000 local residents who served in the armed forces during wartime. Over \$200,000 in materials, services and cash funds were raised to build the Memorial, which has received commendations from the Governor, the State Legislature, various Veterans organizations, and the American Garden Club. It has become a town centerpiece, a tourist destination and the site of many local events.

Suggested Text for Information Panel

Old Saybrook Tribute *to those who kept us going!*

During the Global Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020-21, people were often confined to their homes for lengthy periods, businesses were closed, in-school classes were sporadic, public events were cancelled, and many citizens were unemployed. To slow the rapidly-spreading airborne virus, facial covers and social distancing were required in public places, and group sizes and travel were restricted.

As the virus spread in our community and around the world, the availability of medical supplies and equipment was strained, and hospitals were often overwhelmed. The world anxiously awaited vaccine development by scientists and healthcare professionals, followed by a race to vaccinate as many people as possible.

Millions were infected and over 700,000* Americans died, including 8,000* in Connecticut. We mourn the loss of so many loved ones, as each of these deaths profoundly affected countless family members and friends.

These were challenging times for humanity, necessitating many risks and sacrifices to ensure that residents received essential assistance, healthcare, food, supplies and services.

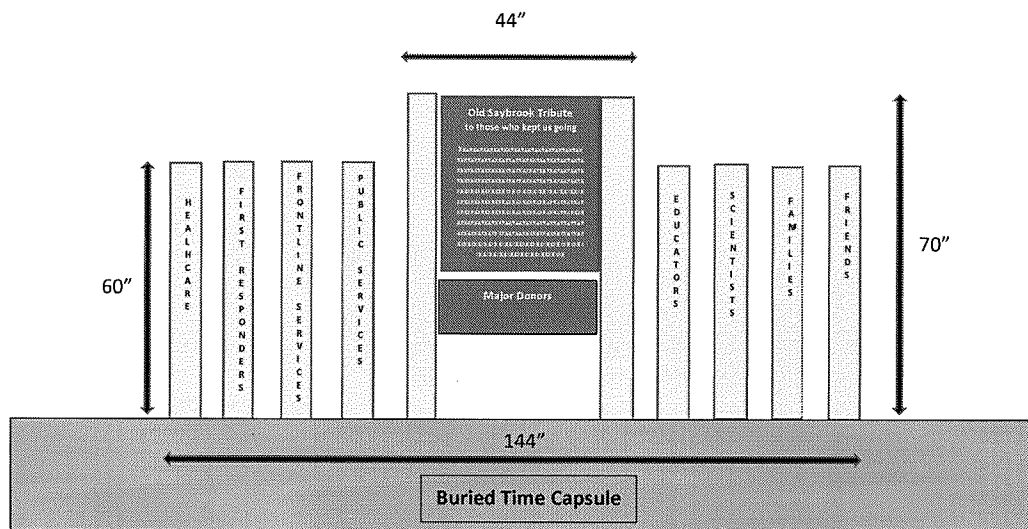
We recognize, celebrate and pay tribute to all those who kept us going during this long, dark period, represented here on Pillars of Tribute.

Dedicated Month, Day, Year

[*Text will be modified to reflect the most updated information at the time of panel fabrication]

[Graphics may also be included]

Proposed Plan for Old Saybrook Covid Pandemic Tribute



<p>Text on Granite Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare • First Responders • Frontline Services • Public Services • Educators • Scientists • Families • Friends 	<p>Bronze Information Panel with Raised Lettering – text on separate page</p> <p>Time Capsule available in a variety of materials, e.g., stainless steel, heavy-duty plastic, etc.</p>	<p>The Tribute is designed to be permanent and virtually maintenance-free</p> <p>Information panels and pillars may be arranged in a variety of configurations – straight line, semi-circle, angled, etc.</p>
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