



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, March 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, Jim Henderson, Steven Pernal, Kevin Lane, Bror Ashe, Nancy Gatta
Absent: Star Rueckert
Also present: Jona Paradis, Ass't Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk
2. **Approval of Feb. 10th and Feb. 24th 2021 Meeting Minutes** – MOTION to accept the Feb. 10, 2021 minutes as presented made by Jim Henderson, seconded by Kevin Lane. MOTION to accept the Feb. 10, 2021 with corrections as follows: item 7C “Jim Henderson asked *if the daily motor cycle fee is unchanged*” and in the motion to adjourn, correct spelling of Commissioner Steven Pernal made by James Henderson, seconded by Steve Pernal and unanimously approved. MOTION to approve the Feb. 24, 2021 minutes as presented made by Jim Henderson, seconded by Kevin Lane and unanimously approved.
3. **Recognition of Guests** – Francisco Gomes, FitzGerald & Halliday and Amanda and Chris, members of the public.
4. **Correspondence** – None
5. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills for the month of February in the amount of \$4,876.10.
6. **Public Comments**- None
7. **New Business**
 - A. **Strategic Plan of Parks Final Plans Review** – Kevin Lane introduced Francisco Gomes. Francisco outlined the final concept plans for the four focus parks: Town Park, Main Street Park, Harvey’s Beach and Saybrook Point. He asked the Commission for guidance on what their priorities are and to lay a path forward. There was consensus among the commissioners to focus first on Town Park and to value the projects for their community impact versus price tag. Francisco should have the draft strategy completed by next Friday.
 - B. **Harvey’s Beach Vendor Decision** – Ray Allen restated the only applicant was Kimberly Morgan of Shore She Shed LLC. Kimberly answered commissioner’s questions and reviewed her Covid-19 precautions. MOTION to accept Shore She Shed LLC as the 2021 concession vendor at Harvey’s Beach made by Susan Esty, seconded by James Henderson and unanimously approved.
 - C. **Memorial/Monuments Discussion**- Ray Allen introduced a concept of a memorial to be erected in recognition of the Covid-19 pandemic as requested by a member of the public. This is requested to be placed at Main Street Park. Susan Esty stated there needs to be a broader discussion on the Commission’s responsibilities regarding monuments and memorials. Questions

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were raised about funding and maintenance. Kevin Lane and Nancy Gatta expressed support for such memorial. Further discussion is needed.

D. Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – Susan Esty noted a letter requesting a new sinking fund has been sent to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration at their next meeting. The land use department is holding an inter-agency meeting on March 30th to which the Parks and Rec Commission is invited. Jonathan Paradis reported News Channel 8 did a piece on the department's wall art project. Summer camp has four camps planned for grades 4-8. State guidance regarding camps will be coming soon and registration is tentatively set for May 1st. T-Ball begins at the end of April and the new community active challenge begins soon also.

8. Old Business

A. All Parks Review – Ray Allen reported the Saybrook Point bathroom is being converted to a flushable toilet system and is planned to be open for the summer season. Susan Esty inquired when the converting to one-way traffic at the point parking area will be done by public works. She is concerned about parking control if the "Smoke on the Water" project is approved. Ray Allen stated you can't chain off parking at a public lot, but you can close the park at night. She suggested the Commission continue to review this topic. The town's Zoning and Planning Commissions are still reviewing site plans for the "Smoke on the Water" project and any commissioner's comments on the project should be directed to Susan or Ray. The next Zoning meeting is Monday, March 15th. The Chairman did send letters to the Planning and Zoning Commissions regarding this project.

B. Preserve Update- Susan Esty reported the ad hoc committee has sent letters to abutting owners providing them updates regarding the Preserve. The bio diversity report is still being waited on and there hopes to be talk with the State about the need for trail maintenance on trails currently under water. The ad hoc is still waiting on GEI's recommendations and the biodiversity report from Mr. Moorehead. Ray Allen noted work on invasive species will be done soon.

C. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel- None

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report – Susan Esty reported she has attended several zoning and planning meetings and the Preserve ad hoc meetings. There will be a MOU meeting on the 23rd with the Conservation Commission. She also thanked Ray Allen for his work on the many projects and meetings he has been a part of.

B. Director's Report – Ray Allen reported Jonathan Paradis has been working hard on programs and this Tues., March 16th the Director will attend a meeting with emergency management and the health department about final approval for summer program plans.

C. Liaison Reports – None

MOTION to adjourn at 8:03p.m. made by Kevin Lane seconded by Nancy Gatta and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk

NEXT MEETING APRIL 14, 2021