



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**

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

[www.oldsaybrookct.gov](http://www.oldsaybrookct.gov)

*Star Rueckert*

*Bror Ashe*

*Nancy Gatta*

*Steven Pernal*

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

**Wednesday, May 12, 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 6:51p.m. Start of meeting was delayed due to technical issues.  
**Present were:** Director Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Jim Henderson, Nancy Gatta & Star Rueckert @ 7:09pm  
**Absent:** Bror Ashe, Kevin Lane & Steven Pernal  
**Also present:** Jona Paradis, Ass't Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk
- 2. Approval of April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Motion to accept the minutes of April 12, 2021 made by Jim Henderson, seconded by Star Rueckert and unanimously approved.
- 3. Recognition of Guests** – None
- 4. Correspondence** – Letters from the Parks and Rec Commission to various Old Saybrook commissions are attached to these minutes.
- 5. Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills for the month of April in the amount of \$29,575.38.
- 6. Public Comments-** None
- 7. New Business**
  - A. Strategic Plan of Parks Final Plans Review** – Ray Allen wanted to give a last opportunity for final comments on the plan. Any comments should be given to Ray Allen or Kevin Lane. Susan Esty wanted to convey to the Selectman that these are phased projects within the plan. Star Rueckert would like to see a visual for the green and renewable initiatives on each project and highlight the plan's green projects, such as, green toilets.
  - B. Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel** – Jona Paradis stated that TBall is underway. Summer camp registration has started and some dates are sold out. The State has relaxed guidelines which will allow for a more normal camp experience. Concerts/movies are being advertised. Chair yoga is a new program beginning in July and also a new dance program. Adult ultimate Frisbee begins this week. The Ray Dobratz Fishing Derby went really well and was a great event for all involved.
- 8. Old Business**
  - A. All Parks Review** – Ray Allen reported all parks are open and water is on. Mini Golf opened. The lacrosse club would like more field time, but our fields are not large enough for games- only practices. Susan Esty reported “Smoke of the Water” project was denied without prejudice by the Zoning Commission.
  - B. Preserve Update-** Ray Allen reported there was no Ad Hoc meeting in April.

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**C. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel-** Ray Allen reported the Covid testing at the Point has been moved to the middle island of the parking lot. Susan Esty mentioned there are pot holes at Gardiner's Landing and trash issues at the Point.

### **9. Reports**

**A. Chairman's Report** – Susan Esty reported she attended the Zoning Commission May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Board of Selectman May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Parks and Rec Commission's sinking fund will be recommended to the Board of Finance. The request to purchase the pavilion was tabled by the Board of Selectman.

**B. Director's Report** – Ray Allen reported beach passes are going fast.

**C. Liaison Reports** – None

MOTION to adjourn at 7:16p.m. made by Jim Henderson seconded by Star Rueckert and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

*\*NEXT MEETING June 9, 2021\**

Tina Antolino  
Recording Clerk

## MINUTES

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

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Board of Selectman  
302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Park and Recreation Commission  
308 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

March 3, 2021

Selectman Fortuna.

The Park and Recreation Commission (OSPR) thanks the Board of Selectmen for supporting our Strategic Planning efforts. We are in the final stage of development of our plan. We look forward to presenting our Strategic Plan to the Board in the future

We realize the financial burden proposed projects may have on the town. To offset possible financial burdens, the OSPR requests the Board of Selectman to approve a separate Sinking Fund for future projects proposed under the OSPR Strategic Plan. These projects would (in part) be funded by the 2021 increases to the Saybrook Point Mini-Golf and Harvey's Beach Parking Fees.

Developing this fund would not stop the General Budget from receiving the end of the year monies from 2020 rates. We ask the Board to allow the 2021 increases in fees be applied to a separate fund used for future Strategic Plan development. Thus, reducing the financial pressure of funding projects.

Thank you,

Chairman Susan Esty  
Park and Recreation Commission

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Board of Selectmen  
302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Parks and Recreation Commission  
308 Main Street  
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RE: Contemporary Pavilion

Selectman Fortuna

The Town of Old Saybrook has been offered a unique opportunity from Atlas Outdoor Living to acquire a “Contemporary Pavilion”. The resale value of this structure is \$27,400.00. This town has an opportunity to buy this structure for less than \$8,000.00.

This structure (16Ft x 24Ft) is made of red cedar and is “ready to go.” Many of our plans for programs and events could easily be adapted to this design. Although we have not decided on any specific location, we feel this opportunity is too good to pass up and would fit with our Strategic Plan.

We advise the Board of Selectmen to acquire the “Contemporary Pavilion” for future use in our parks and recreation facilities.

Chairwoman Susan Esty  
Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation Commission

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Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

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Zoning Commission  
302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Park and Recreation Commission  
308 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

March 3, 2021

Chairman Friedman,

The Old Saybrook Park and Recreation Commission does not object to the proposed changes to Zoning Regulation. We find the proposed changes consistent to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. The proposed changes are consistence to our strategic plan of future use of our parks and recreation facilities.

The Park and Recreation Commission has concerns in regards of the proposed outdoor restaurant site plan. We wish to address our concerns when the Zoning Commission reviews the site plan.

Sincerely,

Chairman Susan Esty  
Park and Recreation Commission

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Parks and Recreation Commission  
308 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Zoning Commission  
302 Main Street  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Re: "Smoke on the Water"

Chairman Friedmann

The Parks and Recreation Commission has had good relations with the owner, Jon Kadama, of the restaurant known as Dock N Dine. Any concerns we have had were met with cooperation and understanding. We feel that this cooperation would continue in the future.

Upon review of the Statement of Use and Site Plan, this Commission has several concerns with regards to the proposed application for "Smoke on the Water" at 145 College Street.

These concerns are not listed in order of importance or priority.

- **Parking for Employees**

Employees per shift would number approximately 10-15.

Hours of operation: Friday and Saturday 11:30am-12am, Sunday -Thursday 11:30am to 10pm. The 17 reserved employee parking spaces is not enough to handle 2 or more shifts. Especially if shifts overlap each other. This puts additional stress to adjacent areas with limited parking options.

Yearly the Park and Recreation Department provides revenue (approximately \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00) to the Town's General Budget. We need to use all the available parking within our parks to accomplish this. We cannot allow competition for parking from neighboring restaurant employees or customers. We Recommend additional Reserved Employee

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Parking be made to handle the number of employees needed during the height of the busy summer.

- **Railing Height**

The railing height designated on the Site Plan does not match the height of the existing railing to the south along walkway in front of Mini Golf. We recommend a consistent look to the public waterfront access and walkway.

- **Public Access Walkway**

The Site Plan states using the existing cement public access from the south along the dock/boardwalk to the north to Gardiner's Landing abutting the CT River. This cement retaining wall is narrow and has an obstruction which inhibits access. We recommend this be changed to allow easy access and be consistent with the existing walkway to the south between Saybrook Point Park and the dock/boardwalk area.

- **Hay Bales**

The Site Plan shows Hay Bales separating the public walkway from the restaurant area. This would not be an appropriate barrier to stop restaurant patrons with alcohol from roaming into adjacent parks. These hay bales will deteriorate and become a hazard. We recommended fencing to separate the restaurant area and the public access walkway.

- **Fencing abutting Gardiners Landing Park**

A split rail fence or similar fencing should be placed along the border to differentiate the two properties.

- **Car Stops**

The Car Stops to the south sidewalk abutting Mini Golf should be placed further away from sidewalk. The Site Plan has the car stops too close to the sidewalk. This not only poses a hazardous situation, but it inhibits safe pedestrian use of the sidewalk. We recommend the car stops be placed farther away from the sidewalk.

- **Music**

The proposed outdoor music would clash with music played within the Mini Golf Park. This would disrupt the passive enjoyment of the 3 parks

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surrounding 145 College Street. We do not recommend live band or outdoor music.

- **Alcohol and Waiting Area**

The proposed Site Plan shows plantings around the restaurant area. Grasses and such are not enough to stop patrons from ordering alcohol and walking out of restaurant area. This is a major concern for us. We recommend a barrier or fencing around the restaurant area which would inhibit wandering restaurant patrons with alcohol.

Will there be a separate area for restaurant patrons waiting for tables? Park visitors should not have to compete with restaurant patrons for seating or picnic tables. We recommend a designated seating area within the restaurant large enough to handle the busy summer business.

Will there be a loudspeaker calling waiting patrons?

We do not recommend using this form of communication as it would disrupt the passive enjoyment of the river front.

Will patrons be served alcohol without ordering: meals, appetizers, or "Tapas"? This Commission is concerned with the negative impact restaurant patrons (under the influence of alcohol) will have when leaving the restaurant and visiting our parks. We do not recommend serving alcohol without meals, appetizers, or "Tapas".

- **Wind Blown Debris**

There is no fencing which would inhibit windblown trash. Food is served using lightweight recyclable or compostable containers and flatware in a notoriously breezy area. This will cause Flyaway items. This windblown debris would end up in our neighboring parks and river. The extra maintenance cost would place an undue hardship on our park system. We recommend fencing surrounding the restaurant area. In addition, we recommend more trash receptacles outside of the restaurant area to handle the additional trash from "Doggie Bag" and "Takeout Orders".

- **Security**

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With no enclosure surrounding the restaurant area, Vandalism may occur. The restaurant area can easily be accessed by the public after hours. Patrons would become curious and wander around the restaurant area, especially the hot charcoal cooker/smoker area. We see this as a hazard. We recommend fencing surrounding the restaurant area with the ability to close it off from public use after hours.

If picnic tables have umbrellas, these are easily removed, they may be used to damage Mini Golf. In the past we have experienced such vandalism within our parks. We recommend affixing umbrellas permanently to the picnic tables to avoid any possible damage.

- **Lighting**

We recommend lighting duplicating the design of lighting used in adjacent parks. We recommend lighting that would reduce “light Pollution” while maintaining safety.

- **Stormwater/drainage**

Historically the area has poor drainage resulting in a major pool of water inhibiting car travel to Gardiners Landing. We recommend this be corrected.

This is a new concept in restaurant business in the Saybrook Point area. This Commission is committed to family friendly recreation use. We recommend to the Zoning Commission that permits for this type of restaurant be reviewed on a yearly basis. This would allow for any unintentional negative impacts to our parks and recreation facilities be addressed and ameliorated for the next season. We state our concerns and recommendations in the interest of promoting a healthy and cooperative environment in which private business and public recreation can coexist.

Chairman Susan Esty  
Old Saybrook Park and Recreation Commission