



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Parks & Recreation Commission

*Susan Esty, Chairman
Steven Pernal, Vice Chair
Jim Henderson, Secretary*

www.oldsaybrookct.gov

*Star Rueckert
Bror Ashe
Nancy Gatta
Kevin Lane*

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

Wednesday, June 10, 2020; 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 6:32p.m.
Present were: Director Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Nancy Gatta, Jim Henderson, Kevin Lane, Star Rueckert & Steven Pernal arrived at 6:50pm
Absent: Bror Ashe
Also present: Jonathan Paradis, Assistant Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk
2. **Approval of May 13, 2020 Meeting** – MOTION to accept the May 13, 2020 minutes was made by Jim Henderson seconded by Kevin Lane. MOTION to amend the motion to accept the May 13, 2020 minutes with a correction to section 8 E "...programming had 225 *participants*..." made by Jim Henderson seconded by Star Rueckert and unanimously approved.
- 3.
4. **Recognition of Guests** – None
5. **Correspondence** – None
6. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills #515 through #591 dated June 10, 2020 in the amount of \$72,465.34.
6. **Public Comments**- None
7. **Old Business**
 - A. **All Parks Review** – Ray Allen stated the parks are doing well and irrigation has yet to be turned on. Next month, Little League and the soccer club will be on the fields. Trask playground hasn't been busy, but pickleball has been active.
 - B. **Preserve Update** – Ray Allen reported Eversource is clearing invasive plants on the power lines right of way. Eversource is aware of and should protect rare species along the power lines. This issue will be discussed further at the Conservation Management Commission (CMC) meeting on June 12th. The parking lot project on Ingham Hill Rd is on schedule. The Preserve is getting lots of trail usage. Susan Esty reported the CMC meeting will be discussing items, such as, signage, ATVs and dog walkers at the June 12th meeting.
 - C. **Strategic Plan of Parks Update**- Kevin Lane stated the survey has launched to the public. Reports from FitzGerald & Halliday are received each Friday and a formal summary will be given when the survey closes. In the first week and a half, there have been 193 participants of which 93% are Old Saybrook residents and of different demographics. The plan is to send the survey out weekly through social media and email blasts and monthly through signage etc. It is still too early to review data in a formal way. There is a setting on the survey program that allows people to take the survey only once. Jim Henderson commented that he thought the survey was very organized and gave great options.
 - D. **Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel** – None

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

8. New Business

A. Saybrook Point Traffic Flow Discussion – Ray Allen spoke with public works and supplies are back ordered for painting parking stripes. The project is currently on hold.

B. Mini Golf Discussion- Ray Allen stated mini golf is open with modifications. New carpets and bird spikes have been installed. Customer traffic has been slow, but it's too early to tell if that is due to the weather or the health crisis.

C. Beach Facilities Discussion- Ray Allen reported Town Beach is busier than Harvey's Beach, but both have been occupied and sun bathers have been very cooperative with the new regulations. There have been additional lifeguard training programs. There is only one person working at Town Beach's concession stand. One issue at Harvey's Beach is people parking at churches on Great Hammock Rd and walking to the beach, creating an issue of non-residents entering the beach. Executive Order places Emergency Management in charge of monitoring the resident only policy in place until at least June 30th. Susan Esty suggested having a discussion with Emergency Management and finding a solution.

D. Summer Programs Discussion- Ray Allen stated virtual programs, concerts & movies will continue this summer. Jona Paradis reported the first concert will be June 26th on the Town Green and the first movie in July. Pre-school virtual programs and yoga have started. TBall has been canceled. Adult pickleball and softball will begin in July with some accommodations. The department is hoping to have traditional programming in the fall. Summer Stock Theatre Program will focus on acting lessons versus a production. Jona is looking to acquire 200 lady bug kindness rocks and spread them out around the parks and use them as a great way to introduce visitors to the strategic plan survey.

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

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report – Susan Esty attended the May 28th Preserve Ad Hoc meeting and will attend the June 12th CMC meeting.

B. Director's Report – Ray Allen reported that online beach passes have been very successful. If the Town wants to continue with mostly online sales, the Commission might consider raising beach pass fees to recoup money from fees charged by the vendor City Hall Systems. The Parks and Rec building will be open to the public June 22nd and staff will report, but with some modified hours. There will be increased cleaning and signage and the teen center will be shut down for the summer. Walking on the inside track will have to be monitored. The Pavilion will be rented in July and onward. The Director is looking forward to the future in recreation. He would like to consider putting a bottle filling station in the gym.

C. Liaison Reports – Susan Esty reported the kayak racks at Sheffield St. from Harbor Management seem to be working well.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:23p.m. made by Kevin Lane seconded by Steve Pernal and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

NEXT MEETING JULY 8, 2020

Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk