



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, August 11, 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 6:31p.m.
Present were: Director Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Jim Henderson, Star Rueckert, Bror Ashe & Nancy Gatta
Absent: Kevin Lane, Steven Pernal & Jona Paradis, Assistant Director
Also present: Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk
2. **Approval of July 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Motion to accept the minutes of July 14, 2021 made by Jim Henderson, seconded by Star Rueckert and unanimously approved.
3. **Recognition of Guests** – None
4. **Correspondence** – None
5. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills for the month of July in the amount of \$28,169.67.
6. **Public Comments**- 0 members of the public were present on the call
7. **New Business**
 - A. **Strategic Plan of Parks Final Plans Discussion**– Ray Allen stated the public presentation of the plan was given July 21st. There is a federal grant available for up to \$10 million dollars that the town can use for renovations to Town Park, as outlined in the strategic plan. This grant is due January 2022. Ray will email the grant package to members and keep everyone up to date. The Commission discussed publicizing the final strategic plan. It was recommended to create a highlight pamphlet, to place the plan on the department website and to create a press release.
 - B. **Gazebo Gift Discussion**- A resident wishes to donate a gazebo to the town. There was discussion to place the gazebo at Founders Park. Public works would move the structure and do foundation work. The Commission agreed to accept the gazebo. The department will consider doing a press release.
 - C. **Maple Ave Ball Field Right of Way Discussion**- Ray Allen stated there has always been a right of way owned by the town from Cricket Court to the park. There was discussion on how to maintain and mark the right of way and communicate with neighbors. It was agreed a simple sign and maintenance of the area was needed.
 - D. **Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel** – Ray Allen found a grant for up to \$50,000 to rebuild the Town Green gazebo. Ray Allen and Susie Beckman will be working on the grant. The Lyons Club has been notified. The gazebo offered for sale by Atlas Fence is also still on the table for the town to purchase and locate to one of its parks.

MINUTES

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8. Old Business

A. All Parks Review – Ray Allen reported the soccer fields will be painted by next week. Beaches and mini golf are still busy. Bror Ashe commented some Trask Park bleachers need repair. Ray Allen stated the issue has been worked on.

B. Preserve Update- Ray Allen reported the parking lot is 95% complete. The next step is doing the small projects now that the parking lot is done. There is severe erosion on the green trail by Essex and a quote is being sought to reroute the trail.

C. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel- The Fall program pamphlet is being developed and the recreation building will be fully opened come Fall. Ray Allen will inquire if the EDC is willing to buy more chairs for the Town Green. Nancy Gatta inquired if Saybrook Point Inn has been talked to about parking. Ray Allen will email the management again. There was discussion on putting information signs on some of the holes at mini golf.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report – Susan Esty attended the public hearing for the strategic plan on July 21st, the August 10th town meeting for the toilet STEAP grant and she did a park tour to determine how the public uses each park. She noted Sept. 10th is the next CMC meeting for The Preserve.

B. Director's Report – Ray Allen stated there will be summer staff through Labor Day and mini golf will be open weekends until Columbus Day weekend. Beginning July 1st, monies from the increase in the mini golf fee have gone into the sinking fund. He noted the annual Arts & Craft Fair will be Oct. 2-3rd. The Chairman would like to extend her compliments to the mini golf staff.

C. Liaison Reports – None

MOTION to adjourn at 7:38p.m. made by Nancy Gatta seconded by Star Rueckert and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Antolino
Recording Clerk

NEXT MEETING SEPT 8, 2021