

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

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

[www.oldsaybrookct.gov/parks-recreation](http://www.oldsaybrookct.gov/parks-recreation)

*Star Rueckert  
Bror Ashe  
Kevin Lane  
Nancy Gatta*

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

**Wednesday, August 12, 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 6:33 p.m.  
**Present were:** Director Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Nancy Gatta, Jim Henderson, Steven Pernal, Kevin Lane & Star Rueckert  
**Absent:** Bror Ashe  
**Also present:** Jona Paradis, Asst. Director
- 2. Approval of July 08, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – MOTION to accept the OSPR Commission minutes of July 08, 2020 as presented was made by Steve Pernal and seconded by Kevin Lane; unanimously approved.
- 3. Recognition of Guests** – None
- 4. Correspondence** – None
- 5. Review of Bills** – The commission reviewed bills dated 07/09/2020 through 07/31/2020 in the amount of \$55,000.68. Director Allen gave additional information on P.O.'s 2100183-01 (Preserve Trail Building) and 2100098-01 (General Parks Maintenance).
- 6. Public Comments** - None
- 7. Old Business**
  - A. All Parks Review** – Ray Allen reported on the following: Parks fared considerably well through Hurricane Isaias (Aug 4<sup>th</sup>), a few small trees and branches down at Town Park and Town Green, all cleaned up. Some cleanout of snack shack at Beach was required, sand infiltration. Mini-Golf lost power for a few days, we were able to continue operations, but ice cream inventory had to be replaced. No flooding reported. Ray will be reviewing park trail systems this week to ensure no unsafe conditions exist.
  - B. Preserve Update** – Susan Esty reported the trail surveying and preparation is wrapping up. The test wells must be capped professionally, current contractor is not licensed to perform that work. Director Ray reports trail clean-up is continuing, to make trails accessible and safe. Susan noted that an update is expected in September when invasive plant review/control process is begun.
  - C. Strategic Plan of Parks Update**- The survey results are completed and the contractor, Fitzgerald and Halliday has reported back to Ray Allen and Kevin Lane. The results were distributed to the Commission for review and discussion at the next meeting. Francisco Gomes of F&H will be on hand to brief the Commission at that time. There were 649 respondents; majority are town residents. F&H indicated that the respondents were more “positive” than other towns undertaking similar reviews. An affordable swimming pool was an example of an

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improvement that had not yet been discussed. The Commissioners will review results and suggestions listed to develop questions and/or strategies for the next meeting.

**D. Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – None**

### 8. New Business

**A. Bathroom Discussion for Main Street and Fort Saybrook Parks –** Ray Allen provided a status on providing more public restrooms for guests at Town Parks. He has applied for a CT Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to cover procurement and installation at these parks. Ray and First Selectman Carl Fortuna reviewed locations and findings are detailed on Attachment A. At Saybrook Point, the concept of replacing the existing pit toilets was disallowed by State requirements, due to it being in the 100 Year Flood Zone. An alternate location closer to the flagpole was recommended.

Director Allen distributed information pertaining to “Green” toilets, which have been successfully installed in Essex and other CT communities. The proposed Clivus composting system is solar operated and environmentally friendly, releases only gray water.

**B. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – Asst.**

Director Paradis reported that the Fall 2020 Program booklet has been delayed due to the COVID-19 preparations and need to incorporate social distancing into all programs. Will not be able to utilize Goodwin School for activities until at least October. Soccer program sign-ups are ongoing. It was noted that the Main Street Pickleball courts now have lighting and the lit hours are currently from 6:00 – 8:15p.m. to support the neighborhood. The Town got a good deal through a lighting contractor, which includes the LED lighting, wiring and timers. Summer concerts and movies are well received and the adult softball league is continuing at Trask and Town Park.

### 9. Reports

**A. Chairman’s Report –** Susan Esty attended the Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting on July 9 and expressed the OSPR Commission consensus that disagreed with a suspension of the current restriction of not allowing private business allowed to be conducted on Town Park property (e.g. Town Green). The OSPR Commission believed this would lead to confusion and possibly conflicting events without coordination by OSPR Director and/or Staff. Chairwoman Esty’s points were noted and the EDC feels that a compromise can be reached as details on plan are refined. Also attended the Selectmen's Preserve Ad-Hoc Committee meeting on July 23rd.

**B. Director’s Report –** Ray Allen reported that a theft occurred at Harvey’s Beach last week; a report was made with O.S. Police Dept. and additional security procedures are being implemented. Beaches are doing well, however, Mini-Golf is understandably down due to mandatory separations; receipts have been increasing as more people realize we are up and running. Chairwoman Esty took time to compliment the Commissioners and Staff she has seen at our facilities, the Team is involved and frequently canvass the community for recommendations.

**C. Liaison Reports – None**

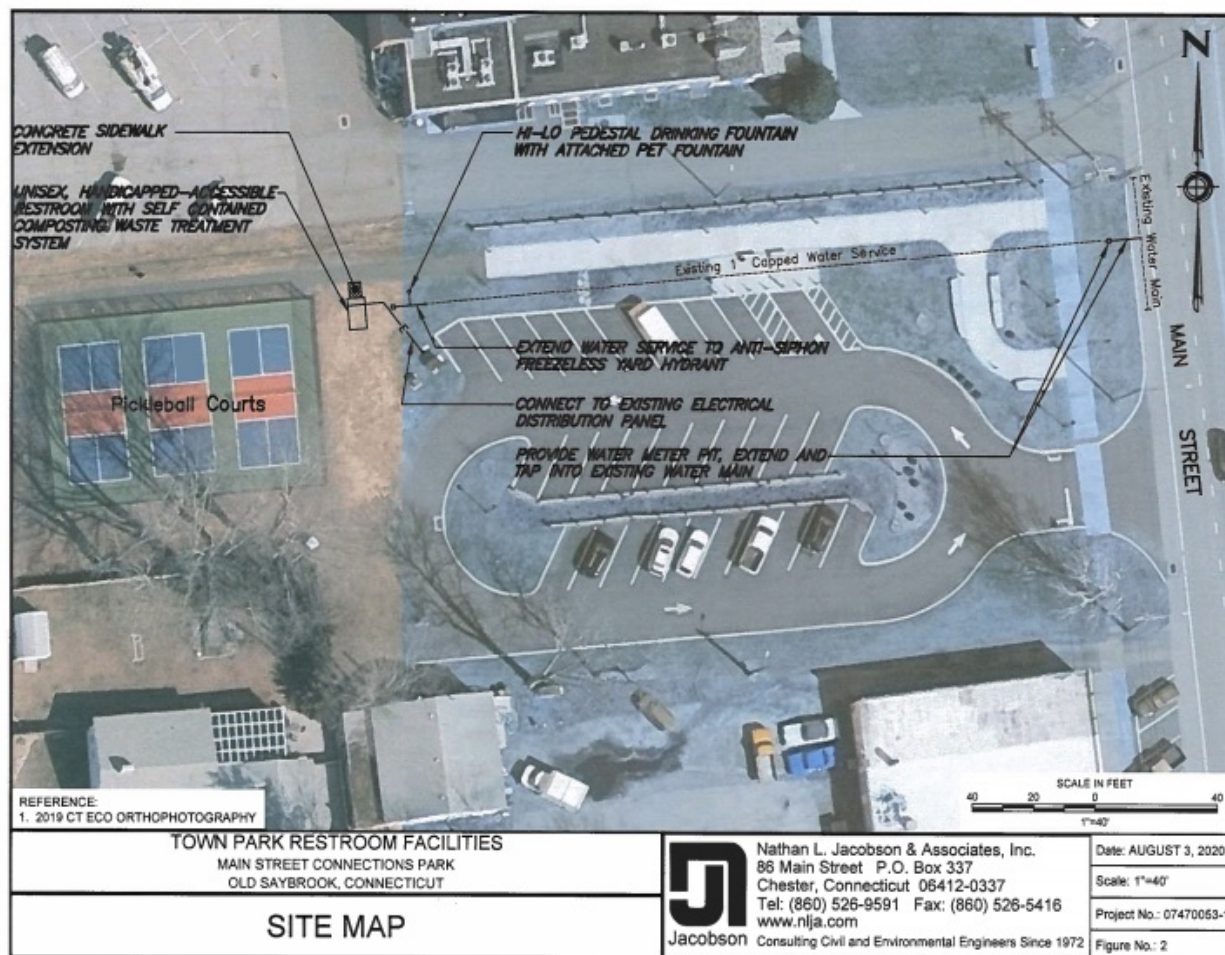
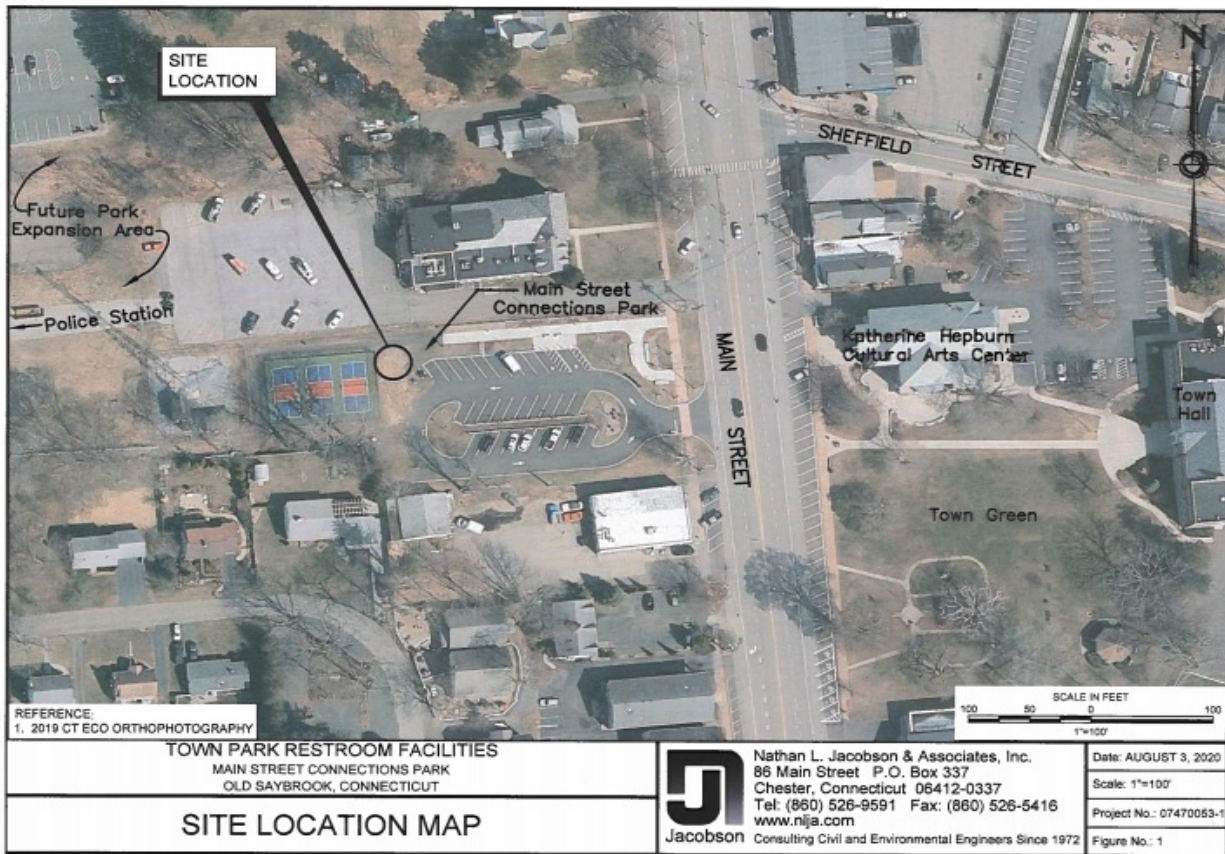
MOTION to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. -Nancy Gatta, seconded by Kevin Lane and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Henderson, Secretary

**NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 6:30 PM**

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