



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, September 8, 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 6:32p.m.
Present were: Director Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Jim Henderson, Star Rueckert, Steven Pernal, Nancy Gatta arrived at 6:57pm, Bror Ashe arrived at 6:38pm
Absent: Kevin Lane
Also present: Jona Paradis, Assistant Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk
2. **Approval of August 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – Motion to accept the minutes of August 11, 2021 made by Jim Henderson, seconded by Steven Pernal. Motion to correct the minutes section 7D “The *Lion’s Club* has been notified” made by Jim Henderson, seconded by Steven Pernal and unanimously approved.
3. **Recognition of Guests** – Caroline Ringer & Lily Reynolds, Old Saybrook High School
4. **Correspondence** – None
5. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills for the month of August in the amount of \$140,724.77.
6. **Public Comments-** 0 members of the public were present on the call
7. **New Business**
 - A. **Senior Project Discussion-** Ray Allen welcomed Caroline Ringer and Lily Reynolds who then presented their project Holiday Light Show on the Old Saybrook Town Green. MOTION to approve the holiday lights project as described made by Jim Henderson, seconded by Star Rueckert and unanimously approved.
 - B. **Tobacco Use in Parks Policy Review-** In April 2014, the commission adopted a policy for tobacco free parks. In the near future, the town will need to update or pass an ordinance regarding marijuana use in public parks and spaces. The commission will be asked for their input during this policy update.
 - C. **Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel-** Jonathan Paradis reported the Fall programs have begun. All elementary and middle school programs are sold out. The soccer season has 11 teams and 40 kids in the preschool level.
8. **Old Business**
 - A. **All Parks Review** – Ray Allen reported fields are lined and grass is still growing. Beaches are fully shut down and mini golf is open weekends only until Columbus Day. All other parks are doing well. Pickle ball light timers have been fixed. Jim Henderson asked about bat houses and possibly adding more. Ray Allen will inquire with the Conservation Commission.

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

B. Strategic Plan of Parks Discussion- The Board of Finance has approved \$150,000 to put toward the plan's projects. Public outreach and advertising the plan is forthcoming.

C. Preserve Update- Ray Allen reported there was minor flooding after the storms. Parts of the blue trail need flood management. The parking lot is complete and the old parking lot will be closed. The trail from the new parking lot to the park is being planned. There is a CMC meeting on Sept. 10th.

D. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel- Ray Allen stated the rec center will opening extended hours next week, Mon-Thurs until 8:30pm. The flag at Fort Monument has been replaced, but lanyards have not. The Lion's Club has cleaned up our veteran's monument. There was discussion on a grant for a new Town Green gazebo and placement of the donated gazebo at Founder's Park.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report – Susan Esty stated the Preserve Ad hoc was cancelled Aug. 26th, but she attended the Board of Finance and town meeting for the \$150,000 appropriation and she will attend the CMC meeting Sept. 10th.

B. Director's Report – Ray Allen stated compostable toilets have been ordered. Mini golf added \$40-45,000 into the sinking fund this season. The season's approximate revenues are as follows: mini golf \$250,000, Harvey's Beach \$87,000, concessions \$25,000, beach passes 2,731 passes. The summer total was \$412,000. Nancy Gatta suggested having a photo op for the composting toilets once they are installed.

C. Liaison Reports – None

MOTION to adjourn at 7:27p.m. made by Bror Ashe seconded by Jim Henderson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Antolino
Recording Clerk

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2021