



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Parks & Recreation Commission

*Susan Esty, Chairman
Jim Henderson, Vice Chair
Star Rueckert, Secretary
Nancy Gatta
Jane Wisialowski
Robert Lemire
Beth Soden*

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**OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 10, 2024; 6:30 PM**

This was a hybrid meeting

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Esty called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: ; Chairman Susan Esty; Vice Chairman, Jim Henderson, Director Ray Allen; Asst. Director Jonathan Paradis; Secretary, Star Rueckert; Nancy Gatta; Jane Wisialowski; Clerk, Gerri Lewis

Absent: Rob Lemire; Beth Soden

2. Approval of March 13th Meeting Minutes

A Motion to approve the March 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Henderson and seconded by Ms. Wisialowski. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Recognition of Guests – None

4. Correspondence – None

5. Review of Bills – The commission reviewed the OSPR Monthly bills for March as presented by Director Allen for \$21,718.09.

6. Public Comment None

7. New Business

A. Main Street Phase II update

- Project will start in April with sidewalks first;
- Project should be done in approximately 1 ½ months;
- Included in the project will be Bocci Courts and a water fountain;
- Signage location to be determined.

B. ARPA Projects Discussion

Director Allen handed out the Parks and Recreation ARPA projects document. He discussed the details, work plans and illustrations for the following projects:

- Re-sod/Grading of Maple Avenue Playfield; ready in the Fall;
- Outfield fencing for Kavanaugh Park Baseball Field;
- Upgrades to Bathrooms at Kavanaugh Park and Clark Community Park;

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- Strategic Plan Improvements Clark Community Park.

Mr. Allen also made mention of the Sea Wall project which will be a town ARPA project.

Ms. Esty thanked Mr. Allen and also thanked him for attending the ARPA meetings.

C. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel

Assistant Director Paradis discussed the following programs:

- Easter Egg Hunt; Rock Hunt; Lions Club volunteers; High School volunteers;
- Dabby's Balloon Service;
- Face Painting;
- April 1st registration for Spring and Summer activities;
- T-Ball registration; 16 teams; sponsor Parthenon Diner;
- April vacation camp;
- New Program Director;
- Fishing Derby 4/27; Little League 4/20;
- Celebrate Saybrook 6/23, 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Esty thanked Mr. Paradis.

8. Old Business

A. All Parks Review

Director Allen reported the following;

- Thanks to the Town Crew working on the ball fields. they are in good shape;
- Ferry Road is wet but ready to go;
- Mini Golf will open first weekend in May;
- Mini Golf full time opening is May 24, 2024.

B. Strategic Plan of Parks Discussion

Mr. Allen reported that he continues to meet with Geoff Jacobsen. There is nothing new to note at this time.

C. Preserve Update

Director Allen presented a document from the Ad Hoc Committee's Position on Hunting – March 2024. It was noted that the possibility of hunting in The Preserve is a controversial issue. This document discussed the following:

- Legal and Liability Issues;
- Deer Population, Ecological Impacts & Special Controlled Hunts;

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- Fear and Firearms;
- Conclusions and Recommendations as follows:
 - Clarify Old Saybrook's Statutory Language and Control Liability;
 - Perform a Baseline Deer Population Study if Financially Feasible;
 - Perform Periodic Controlled Hunts;
 - Current Timeline is Too Aggressive; and
 - Public Outreach and Education Must Be done.

Ms. Esty noted that the Ad Hoc Committee took these issues very seriously. She noted that education was very important and public forums will be provided.

Also there will be a special meeting on Forest Management Plan on May 15th.

D. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – None

At this time Mr. Henderson and Ms. Gatta inquired about the Bicycle Pump. Director Allen noted that he ordered the part, but the company sent the wrong one.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report

Chairman Esty reported she attended several meetings as follows:

- April 16 Spec Town meeting and Board of Finance;
- April 25 Preserve Ad Hoc Committee meeting;
- April 24 Special Board of Selectmen meeting.

B. Director's Report

Director Allen thanked Selectman Pugliese for his donation to Parks and Recreation.

C. Liaison Reports - None

MOTION to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. was made by Ms. Wisialowski, seconded by Ms. Rueckert and was so VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerri Lewis, Clerk
Parks and Recreation Commission

NEXT MEETING MAY 8, 2024