



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
Jane Wisialowski*

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

Wednesday, December 14, 2022; 6:30 PM

This was a hybrid meeting

MINUTES

- 1. Call Meeting to Order** – Chairwoman Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Director Ray Allen; Chairwoman Susan Esty; Vice-Chair Kevin Lane; Secretary Jim Henderson; Nancy Gatta; Jane Wisialowski; Star Rueckert; Jona Paradis

Absent: Bror Ashe

2. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

Approval of November 9th minutes with corrections made by Mr. Henderson was seconded by Ms. Gatta. Discussion: None. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Recognition of Guests – None

4. Correspondence - None

5. Review of Bills – The commission reviewed the OSPR November 2022 bills as presented by Director Allen in the amount of \$33,506.69.

6. Public Comment None

7. New Business

A. Election of 2023 OSPR Board Officers

Susan Esty was nominated for Board Chairman, motion by Kevin Lane, seconded by Jane Wisialowski. No discussion, Nomination was approved 6-0-0.

Kevin Lane was nominated for Board Vice-Chairman, motion by Nancy Gatta, seconded by Star Rueckert. No discussion. Nomination was approved 6-0-0.

Jim Henderson was nominated for Board Secretary, motion by Star Rueckert, seconded by Jane Wisialowski. No discussion, Nomination was approved 6-0-0.

B. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel

Director Ray Allen initiated a discussion regarding the historic Chalker Martin House located at 1552 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook. There has been a change in property ownership and the new tenants have inquired as to whether the Town of Old Saybrook would like to move and maintain the historic structure on the property. Mr. Ted Levy and Mr. Bob Lorenz spoke on behalf of the adoption, suggesting that the historic

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structure (16' x 43') could be moved to the entrance of The Preserve, possibly as a visitors' station or learning center as an example of early hand-crafted workmanship. If pursued, discussions with the Cooperative Management Committee (CMC) would be required if used at The Preserve, and transport/maintenance cost would have to be considered for locations such as Town Park. Chairwoman Esty took a consensus as to whether the OSPR should consider this further; all were in favor 6-0-0. This will be discussed further at the CMC Quarterly Preserve meeting, to be held 12/16/2022, with Susan Esty to attend.

8. Old Business

A. **All Parks Review** – Director Allen reported all parks have been tidied and stowed for the Winter season per usual. He briefed the Board on the following:

- Disc Golf course at Town Park construction still in progress;
- Expected completion in Spring of 2023;
- New Flag Pole up at Fort Saybrook Monument Park;
- Re-routed small section of Yellow Trail for safety in vicinity of Disc Golf

B. **Strategic Plan of Parks Discussion**

Director Allen met with Town Engineer Jeff Jacobson at Clark Community Park to discuss layout of fields and pavilion renovations in regard to the Strategic Plan. Jacobson is in the process of working on cost estimates for the project to present to the commission in the near future

C. **The Preserve Update**

Director Allen noted that a Vernal Pool Study is required to move forward with the Master Trails Plan. Buffer Zones must be maintained to protect reptiles/amphibian "productivity". This is being accomplished by Dr. Klemens, a consulting herpetologist. These buffer zones will require more attention for the timber logging process within The Preserve and a logging plan will need to be developed and reviewed. A recent news article on the subject (www.ctexaminer.com/2022/12/21/deep-freezes-vernal-pools-may-limit-logging-public-access-to-old-saybrook-preserve) is available for background information.

D. **Discussion of Maynard Property Update**

Director Allen stated there was no new information or discussion on the Ingham Hill Road property.

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E. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel

Mr. Paradis reported on the following:

- Indoor Soccer season was a popular success;
- Starlight Festival was held, despite cold weather there were many happy attendees, about 250 kids got to meet Santa Claus;
- Pickleball – now taking Sunday AM court reservations;
- The three indoor Pickleball courts can be reserved online (18+);
- December Camp starts in two weeks;
- Acquired grant money from Foundation of Middlesex County toward camps;
- Winter Program Registration opens on Dec. 21 at 9 a.m.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report

Ms. Esty reported that all ARPA project funding requests were approved.

B. Director's Report

Director Allen went over the OSPR FY-2023-2024 Budget Presentation for the Commission and noted that they will be presented to the Board of Finance near end of January.

Surplus funds could be directed to:

Harvey's and Town Beach renovations

Technology upgrades (e.g. Wi-Fi access points, equipment).

C. Liaison Reports

Ms. Gatta noted there is no new news concerning the Turf Field lights/walkway. Group will meet again in the new year.

Ms. Esty thanked the Commission for 2022 efforts and called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Ms. Rueckert was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

James Henderson, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 11TH , 2023