



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, February 8, 2023; 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: Chairwoman Susan Esty; Vice-Chair Kevin Lane; Secretary Jim Henderson; Nancy Gatta; Jane Wisialowski; Bror Ashe; Director Ray Allen; Asst. Director Jona Paradis

Absent: Star Rueckert

2. **Approval of January Meeting Minutes**

Approval of January 19th minutes was tabled until the March meeting so that the minutes could be reviewed for accuracy.

3. **Recognition of Guests** – None

4. **Correspondence** - None

5. **Review of Bills** – The commission reviewed the OSPR January 2023 bills as presented by Director Allen in the amount of \$20,728.72.

6. **Public Comment** None

7. **New Business**

A. Tobacco Free Parks Policy Discussion

Director Allen distributed the existing Parks/Beaches/Facilities Policy on tobacco products, with discussion following on need for updates on vaping products and marijuana use in Connecticut. Recreational marijuana has been legal since July 1, 2021 (State Bill 1201). Currently, tobacco products are prohibited at all OSPR locations, with the exception of designated areas at Town Beach and Harvey's Beach.

The Board's consensus was to retain existing policies to include vaping/legal marijuana use similarly. Jim Henderson volunteered to gather Tobacco/Vaping/Marijuana policies from the Board of Education/similar organizations and distribute by email to the team via email for consideration and action at the March Meeting.

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 08, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

B. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding Projects

Director Ray Allen distributed a list of Round 1 projects (“Old Saybrook ARPA Tracker”) that have been approved and are in process/completed. Some possible OSPR projects worthy of submission were discussed:

- Gardiner’s Landing Sea Wall repairs
- Maple Avenue Field sod/irrigation
- Ferry Road Field needs to be raised; currently soggy
- Trask Road Field backstop and bleacher repairs
- Founders’ Park invasive plant controls
- Rec Center basketball courts resurfacing
- Duffy Pavilion parking lot signage

C. Any Other New Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel

Director Allen reports no major problems encountered.

Upcoming events as described by Asst. Director Paradis:

- Feb 25 – Snowman Festival on Town Green
- February Camp coming up in two weeks
- All Summer Concerts have been sponsored, Movie series all set

Had OSPR Night at the OSHS Basketball game, Fri February 3rd

Wrapping up Winter Program Session 1

On January 28, Members of the Connecticut Sun WNBA team came to visit young OSPR basketball players

8. Old Business

- A. **All Parks Review** – Director Allen reported some parks have experienced more usage due to warm weather. Pickleball courts, Great Cedars walking trails and Rec Center are most popular recently.

Disc Golf course at Town Park has 13 holes completed and is seeing regular use. Remaining holes will be developed soon, expect completion around April.

B. Strategic Plan of Parks Discussion

Director Allen briefed the Commission on progress with Engineer Jeff Jacobson for Town Park development. Project has been broken up into manageable subtasks based on the possibility of using various funding sources for each. Jacobson is currently getting pricing on subtasks for further review. Overhead lighting and funding may not be approved yet, but conduit/equipment for that possibility will be installed.

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 08, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

C. The Preserve Update

Director Allen reported that a grant for the Vernal Pool study has been obtained and is important to future plans for the site.

D. Discussion of Maynard Property Update

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

E. Any Other Old Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel

Nothing to report.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report

Director Allen and Chairwoman Esty briefed the Old Saybrook Board of Finance on the OSPR FY2023-2024 Budget. There were a few procedural questions on specific qualms with OSPR locations, all of which have been addressed by the Parks and Recreation Commission in recent meetings. Chairwoman Esty noted that we will invite BOF members to a regular OSPR meeting for operational matters prior to the Budget Discussion, so as not to sidetrack Finance discussions.

B. Director's Report

Applications for Harvey's Beach Summer Food Concessions are now available and will also be listed in other outlets such as Chamber of Commerce, CTFoodTruck.com, etc. to obtain wide distribution.

C. Liaison Reports

Ms. Gatta noted there is no new news concerning the Turf Field lights/walkway. The Harlem Wizards will be appearing at OSHS on February 13 at 6:30pm.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. made by Nancy Gatta, seconded by Kevin Lane, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

James Henderson, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 08 , 2023