



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, May 10, 2023; 6:30 PM

This was a hybrid meeting

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chairwoman Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Present: Director Ray Allen, Chairwoman Susan Esty, Vice-Chair Kevin Lane, Secretary Jim Henderson, Nancy Gatta, Jane Wisialowski, Star Rueckert, Bror Ashe, Asst. Dir. Jona Paradis

Absent: None

2. Approval of April 2023 Meeting Minutes

A **Motion** for Approval of April 12th, 2023 Meeting Minutes with minor correction 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 April 2023 bills as presented by Director Allen in the amount of \$21,800.56.

6. Public Comments – None

7. New Business

A. Tobacco/Cannabis/Vaping Policy

The Commission reviewed the proposed policy as distributed by Director Allen. Discussion followed with resolutions to update the Title and ‘Compliance’ paragraph to include Vaping and remove the redundant term “Free”. A **Motion** was made by Susan Esty to approve this policy with the agreed-upon updates, seconded by Nancy Gatta. No further discussion, Motion was approved 7-0-0.

B. ARPA Projects

Director Ray Allen distributed a list of preferred parks upgrade projects (Appendix A) that would be eligible under the ARPA guidelines. Ferry Road project would involve upgrades to remove the existing surface, add drainage material and replace/resod the playing field. Director Allen is currently working with the Town Engineer, Jeff Jacobson, to develop cost estimates and phasing to be acted upon in preparation of the funding receipt. The number of projects undertaken will be dependent on the amount of funds granted, Chairman Esty and Director Allen are meeting regularly with First Selectman Carl Fortuna regarding application/progress. Asst. Director Paradis investigated the reported issues with the MacMurray Baseball Field scoreboard, most of the issues are operator error and the requirement of a specific startup sequence, but it can be operated dependably. A replacement may be on table as the existing scoreboard

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could be also be used at other town sports fields.

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

None

8. Old Business

A. All Parks Review

Director Allen reported all parks are in good shape with no major problems. He briefed the Board on the following:

- Disc Golf course at Town Park near completion, now acquiring signage;
- Expected “official” Disc Golf opening within a month or two;
- All beaches were recently graded to correct sand accumulation by wind;
- Regraded Harvey’s Beach parking lot;
- Trask Road Splash Pad has been refurbished, positive comments from community;
- Wood chips placed at Saybrook Point Park to control invasives, Founders Park uses plastic sheeting;
- Town Beach/Harvey’s Beach bathrooms being upgraded
- Mini Golf is ready for the season, green carpets replaced on rotating schedule

B. Strategic Plan of Parks

Director Allen working with Town Engineer Jeff Jacobson on developing the engineering and install costs for projects. Some are complete, some have gone out to additional vendors for secondary quotations. Town Park Cabin will undergo upgrades including a skylight to be more hospitable for Summer Camp/picnics/parties.

C. The Preserve

Recent efforts include rerouting of the Ingham Hill Road trailhead to divert away from private property, also avoiding potentially dangerous drop-offs. Trails are seeing an increase of use due to the warmer weather. The vernal pool and spotted turtle studies are continuing, expected reports in Sept/Oct timeframe which will inform further trail rerouting.

D. Any other Old Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel

Asst. Director Paradis reported on the following:

- 10th Annual Ray Dobratz Fishing Derby was held at Crystal Lake, very popular and well-received;
- T-Ball season has begun;
- Gearing up for Summer Camps, 15 staff trained and ready;

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- Old Saybrook Main Street Festival will be held on Sunday, June 25, 12-6 p.m. Food trucks, bands, crafts vendors; Main Street will be closed between Sheffield Street & Elm Street

Discussion on Old Saybrook Parks Map with parks, amenities and directions was discussed, could be a useful source for resources for new residents and visitors.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report

All covered in previous discussions.

B. Director's Report

Summer staffing is 99% complete, lifeguards will be trained when school(s) let out. Beach Pass issuance process is working smoothly.

C. Liaison Reports - None

MOTION to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. made by J. Wisialowski, seconded by K. Lane, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

James Henderson, Secretary

*** NEXT MEETING: JUNE 14TH , 2023 ***

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APPENDIX A: LIST OF POTENTIAL ARPA PROJECTS

- Repair/Raise/Increase drainage at Ferry Road Field
- Resurfacing of Vin Baker Basketball courts
- Maple Avenue - Irrigation installation
- Maple Avenue - Turf installation
- MacMurray Field – New electronic scoreboard
- Trask Road – Baseball/Softball - New bleachers
- Trask Road – Baseball/Softball – New backstop screen
- Trask Road – Baseball/Softball - New outfield fence
- Harvey’s Beach – Pave Parking Lot
- Ferry Road – New perimeter fencing
- Gardiner’s Landing – Seawall improvements
- Town Green – Relocate backflow preventer
- Town Green – New trash cans
- Teen Center – New Billiards and Air Hockey tables