



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**

Susan Esty, Chairman  
Kevin Lane, Vice Chair  
Jim Henderson, Secretary

[www.oldsaybrookct.gov](http://www.oldsaybrookct.gov)

Star Rueckert  
Bror Ashe  
Nancy Gatta  
Jane Wisialowski

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

**Wednesday, July 13, 2022; 6:30 PM**

This was a hybrid meeting

**MINUTES**

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

**Present:** Director Ray Allen; Chairwoman, Susan Esty; Secretary, Jim Henderson; Nancy Gatta, Bror Ashe, Jane Wisialowski,

**Absent:** Vice Chair, Kevin Lane; Star Rueckert

At this time Ms. Esty noted agenda item number 2 should read June 8<sup>th</sup>, not June 11<sup>th</sup>.

2. **Approval of June 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes** – MOTION to accept the June 8th, 2022 minutes was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Ms. Gatta. Discussion: Ms. Gatta noted that she attended a 3T meeting, not a BOE meeting; Mr. Henderson noted that his inquiry referred to light posts located at the Rec Center. Motion as amended was unanimously approved.
3. **Recognition of Guests** – Ms. Esty welcomed guests; Jennifer Randak; Jane Connolly; Nancy Duverger; Elaine Casale and Kim McEwen.
4. **Correspondence** – Director Allen received a letter from Bill Gagna, noting he has been collecting bottles and cans since 2004 and donating the money to the Education Foundation. He reported that Gagna collected \$11,350.00 and donated the funds to the public schools.

He also apprised the commission about the property for sale at 60 Ingham Hill Road. This property is right behind the high school. He passed around the map of the property and the listing agreement.

Director Allen also noted that he received a petition relative to Pickleball Courts. Ms. Esty read into the record the petition addressed to Board of selectman as follows:

*We, the undersigned residents of Old Saybrook petition the Council and ask that the mostly unused tennis courts at Trask Park be fully or partially converted to Pickleball courts. Lining the courts is a relatively quick and inexpensive solution to the overwhelming demand for pickleball courts in our town. There are 4 tennis courts now barely used. Each set of two courts can be lined for 6 pickleball courts with portable nets. The tennis lines and nets can be left alone. This is being done all over the world to acknowledge the growing demand for pickleball play. If 12 courts are lined, we can hold fundraising tournaments for local charities.*

Ms. Esty noted that there were 15 signatures.

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**5. Review of Bills** – The commission reviewed the OSPR June, 2022 bills as presented by Director Allen in the amount of \$84,936.54.

**6. Public Comment** – Guests commented that they were at the meeting to support Pickleball Courts.

**7. New Business**

**A. Pickleball Update Discussion**

Several of the guests commented on ideas and the need for Pickle Ball courts. They were asking about the possibility for more Pickle Ball courts at Trask Park. Director Allen discussed several ideas and costs and the interchange of tennis courts and Pickle Ball courts at Trask Park. He also noted that this was part of the Park & Rec Strategic Plan and that this was one of the requested items in his power point presentation he presented to ARPA. After a lengthy discussion, the following motion was made:

A Motion by Chairman Esty to direct Director Allen to investigate costs associated with Pickleball courts at Trask Park, seconded by Ms. Wisialowski. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Any Other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel**

None

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**8. Old Business**

**A. All Parks Review** – Director Allen reported on the following:

- Irrigation Systems on...everything pretty crisp until we get some rain
- Soccer season 4 weeks away
- Signage at Saybrook Point – 4 parking signs; seem to be working well
- More people parking at Dock & Dine lot
- Biggest problem at The Point is the overflow of the garbage cans

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- All parks doing well

Ms. Esty commented that she witnessed a mini golf employee giving directions to someone and how helpful he was. She noted the patience and knowledge of this employee. She commented that this shows how thorough Park & Rec is on how they vet their employees.

### **B. Strategic Plan of Parks Discussion**

Director Ray passed around a survey map from Geoff Jacobsen of Town Park. He noted that Step 1 is now complete.

Disc golf course: Fairways are ready to go; Basket are in; working on Key pads. Director Ray noted that it should be done by end of August. He noted that he discussed signs with Rob and the course should ready to go by September.

- C. **The Preserve Update** – Director Ray noted nothing to add. Conservation Commission did not meet in June.

### **D. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel**

Director Ray noted that the income totals were similar and not far from last year and the numbers are good. He reported that the beaches and mini golf have been busy all around. He commented that he was worried about life guard staffing issues and other staffing issues in August due to employees going back to school.

## **9. Reports**

- A. **Chairman's Report** - None

- B. **Director's Report** – None

- B. **Liaison Reports** –

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Ms. Gatta reported that if you drive by the high school, they have at least 1 light up and poles and equipment have been delivered. They will be meeting in 2 weeks. She noted that things are moving along on schedule.

Ms. Esty thanked Ms. Gatta.

Ms. Esty inquired if Director Ray got the ARPA application for their projects to which he said he did. He said he was wondering how to go about noting priority projects on the application. Ms. Esty said that some applications were time important. She also noted that there were guidelines that the committee was given when looking at the applications. She advised that she would email the ARPA chairman for an answer to Director Ray's question.

Ms. Gatta inquired about the location of the Bike Pump. Director Ray noted that it will be located down by mini golf between there and the book library.

Ms. Esty thanked the commission and called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION** to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. made by N. Gatta, seconded by B. Ashe and was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerri Lewis, Clerk

**\*NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 10, 2022\***