

**OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING
Wednesday, May 12th, 2021
6:30 PM
AGENDA**

Old Saybrook Parks & Recreation Commission

Public Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93406457594?pwd=bFJZL2QyZEhlaUQxaGFZcjhzUytaZz09>

Dial In: 929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 934 0645 7594

Passcode: 302302

One Tap Mobile: <tel://9294362866,,93406457594#>

RECEIVED
OLD SAYBROOK, CT
MAY 10 2021
SARAH V. BECKER
TOWN CLERK

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of April 21st, 2021 Special Meeting**
3. **Recognition of Guests**
4. **Correspondence**
5. **Review of Bills**

6. **Public Comments**

7. **New Business**
 - A. **Strategic Plan of Parks Final Plans**
 - B. **Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel**

8. **Old Business**
 - A. **All Parks Review**
 - B. **Preserve Update**
 - D. **Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel**

9. **Reports**
 - A. **Chairman's Report**
 - B. **Director's Report**
 - C. **Liaison Reports**

****MEETING LOCATION - VIA ZOOM****

***** 6:30 PM *****

Board of Selectman
302 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Park and Recreation Commission
308 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

March 3, 2021

Selectman Fortuna.

The Park and Recreation Commission (OSPR) thanks the Board of Selectmen for supporting our Strategic Planning efforts. We are in the final stage of development of our plan. We look forward to presenting our Strategic Plan to the Board in the future

We realize the financial burden proposed projects may have on the town. To offset possible financial burdens, the OSPR requests the Board of Selectman to approve a separate Sinking Fund for future projects proposed under the OSPR Strategic Plan. These projects would (in part) be funded by the 2021 increases to the Saybrook Point Mini-Golf and Harvey's Beach Parking Fees.

Developing this fund would not stop the General Budget from receiving the end of the year monies from 2020 rates. We ask the Board to allow the 2021 increases in fees be applied to a separate fund used for future Strategic Plan development. Thus, reducing the financial pressure of funding projects.

Thank you,

Chairman Susan Esty
Park and Recreation Commission

Board of Selectmen
302 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Parks and Recreation Commission
308 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

RE: Contemporary Pavilion

Selectman Fortuna

The Town of Old Saybrook has been offered a unique opportunity from Atlas Outdoor Living to acquire a “Contemporary Pavilion”. The resale value of this structure is \$27,400.00. This town has an opportunity to buy this structure for less than \$8,000.00.

This structure (16Ft x 24Ft) is made of red cedar and is “ready to go.” Many of our plans for programs and events could easily be adapted to this design. Although we have not decided on any specific location, we feel this opportunity is too good to pass up and would fit with our Strategic Plan.

We advise the Board of Selectmen to acquire the “Contemporary Pavilion” for future use in our parks and recreation facilities.

Chairwoman Susan Esty
Old Saybrook Parks and Recreation Commission

Zoning Commission
302 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Park and Recreation Commission
308 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

March 3, 2021

Chairman Friedman,

The Old Saybrook Park and Recreation Commission does not object to the proposed changes to Zoning Regulation. We find the proposed changes consistent to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. The proposed changes are consistence to our strategic plan of future use of our parks and recreation facilities.

The Park and Recreation Commission has concerns in regards of the proposed outdoor restaurant site plan. We wish to address our concerns when the Zoning Commission reviews the site plan.

Sincerely,

Chairman Susan Esty
Park and Recreation Commission

Parks and Recreation Commission
308 Main street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Zoning Commission
302 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Re: "Smoke on the Water"

Chairman Friedmann

The Parks and Recreation Commission has had good relations with the owner, Jon Kadama, of the restaurant known as Dock N Dine. Any concerns we have had were met with cooperation and understanding. We feel that this cooperation would continue in the future.

Upon review of the Statement of Use and Site Plan, this Commission has several concerns with regards to the proposed application for "Smoke on the Water" at 145 College Street.

These concerns are not listed in order of importance or priority.

- **Parking for Employees**

Employees per shift would number approximately 10-15.

Hours of operation: Friday and Saturday 11:30am-12am, Sunday -Thursday 11:30am to 10pm. The 17 reserved employee parking spaces is not enough to handle 2 or more shifts. Especially if shifts overlap each other. This puts additional stress to adjacent areas with limited parking options.

Yearly the Park and Recreation Department provides revenue (approximately \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00) to the Town's General Budget. We need to use all the available parking within our parks to accomplish this. We cannot allow competition for parking from neighboring restaurant employees or customers. We Recommend additional Reserved Employee Parking be made to handle the number of employees needed during the height of the busy summer.

- **Railing Height**

The railing height designated on the Site Plan does not match the height of the existing railing to the south along walkway in front of Mini Golf. We recommend a consistent look to the public waterfront access and walkway.

- **Public Access Walkway**

The Site Plan states using the existing cement public access from the south along the dock/boardwalk to the north to Gardiner's Landing abutting the CT River. This cement retaining wall is narrow and has an obstruction

which inhibits access. We recommend this be changed to allow easy access and be consistent with the existing walkway to the south between Saybrook Point Park and the dock/boardwalk area.

- **Hay Bales**

The Site Plan shows Hay Bales separating the public walkway from the restaurant area. This would not be an appropriate barrier to stop restaurant patrons with alcohol from roaming into adjacent parks. These hay bales will deteriorate and become a hazard. We recommended fencing to separate the restaurant area and the public access walkway.

- **Fencing abutting Gardiners Landing Park**

A split rail fence or similar fencing should be placed along the border to differentiate the two properties.

- **Car Stops**

The Car Stops to the south sidewalk abutting Mini Golf should be placed further away from sidewalk. The Site Plan has the car stops too close to the sidewalk. This not only poses a hazardous situation, but it inhibits safe pedestrian use of the sidewalk. We recommend the car stops be placed farther away from the sidewalk.

- **Music**

The proposed outdoor music would clash with music played within the Mini Golf Park. This would disrupt the passive enjoyment of the 3 parks surrounding 145

College Street. We do not recommend live band or outdoor music.

- **Alcohol and Waiting Area**

The proposed Site Plan shows plantings around the restaurant area. Grasses and such are not enough to stop patrons from ordering alcohol and walking out of restaurant area. This is a major concern for us. We recommend a barrier or fencing around the restaurant area which would inhibit wandering restaurant patrons with alcohol.

Will there be a separate area for restaurant patrons waiting for tables? Park visitors should not have to compete with restaurant patrons for seating or picnic tables. We recommend a designated seating area within the restaurant large enough to handle the busy summer business.

Will there be a loudspeaker calling waiting patrons?

We do not recommend using this form of communication as it would disrupt the passive enjoyment of the river front.

Will patrons be served alcohol without ordering: meals, appetizers, or "Tapas"? This Commission is concerned with the negative impact restaurant patrons (under the influence of alcohol) will have when leaving the restaurant and visiting our parks. We do not

recommend serving alcohol without meals, appetizers, or “Tapas”.

- **Wind Blown Debris**

There is no fencing which would inhibit windblown trash. Food is served using lightweight recyclable or compostable containers and flatware in a notoriously breezy area. This will cause Flyaway items. This windblown debris would end up in our neighboring parks and river. The extra maintenance cost would place an undue hardship on our park system. We recommend fencing surrounding the restaurant area. In addition, we recommend more trash receptacles outside of the restaurant area to handle the additional trash from “Doggie Bag” and “Takeout Orders”.

- **Security**

With no enclosure surrounding the restaurant area, Vandalism may occur. The restaurant area can easily be accessed by the public after hours. Patrons would become curious and wander around the restaurant area, especially the hot charcoal cooker/smoker area. We see this as a hazard. We recommend fencing surrounding the restaurant area with the ability to close it off from public use after hours.

If picnic tables have umbrellas, these are easily removed, they may be used to damage Mini Golf. In the past we have experienced such vandalism within our

parks. We recommend affixing umbrellas permanently to the picnic tables to avoid any possible damage.

- **Lighting**

We recommend lighting duplicating the design of lighting used in adjacent parks. We recommend lighting that would reduce “light Pollution” while maintaining safety.

- **Stormwater/drainage**

Historically the area has poor drainage resulting in a major pool of water inhibiting car travel to Gardiners Landing. We recommend this be corrected.

This is a new concept in restaurant business in the Saybrook Point area. This Commission is committed to family friendly recreation use. We recommend to the Zoning Commission that permits for this type of restaurant be reviewed on a yearly basis. This would allow for any unintentional negative impacts to our parks and recreation facilities be addressed and ameliorated for the next season. We state our concerns and recommendations in the interest of promoting a healthy and cooperative environment in which private business and public recreation can coexist.

Chairman Susan Esty

Old Saybrook Park and Recreation Commission