I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman L. Ritzhaupt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present – Larry Ritzhaupt, Kelly Hartshorn (remote), Peter DeLisa, Laurie Aparo (remote)

Members Absent – Chris Picklo; Donna Leake; Michael Osnato, Carlina Castro

Land Use Department Staff – Lynette Wacker, Assistant Town Planner; Carolina Maharbiz, Recording Clerk

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – 3/8/2022

MOTION to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 8, 2022, as presented; MADE by L. Ritzhaupt and SECONDED by P. DeLisa; VOTED IN FAVOR: L. Ritzhaupt, K. Hartshorn, P. DeLisa, L. Aparo; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None. APPROVED: 4-0-0.

B. Correspondence & Announcements – none

C. Committee and Representative Reports (Significant Update Only)

i. Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions – P. DeLisa stated that the disc golf course proposal for Clark Park is moving forward. L. Wacker
added that the IWWC deemed the use nonregulated so as not to require a permit.

ii. **Preserve Management Committee** – none.

iii. **Land Trust** – K. Hartshorn reported that the Land Trust attended the Conservation Management Committee meeting to discuss the Preserve. At this meeting, John Ogren stated that at least 50% of the Preserve should be set aside for old-growth forest; he expressed concerns about invasives; and he requested that bow hunting be allowed. C. Picklo stated at the meeting that the CC was not in favor of logging or hunting. K. Hartshorn also reported that the Land Trust drafted a town Conservation Plan and will be doing a walk of the natural shoreline trail at Fenwick on May 22.

iv. **Parks and Rec** – L. Ritzhaupt discussed the Parks & Rec meeting under the kayak launch agenda item.

v. **Student Rep.** – Carlina Castro was unable to attend.

D. **Goals and Action Tracker Update** – nothing to discuss

IV. **LAND STEWARDSHIP**

A. **Open Space Monitoring** – L. Ritzhaupt stated that the CC needs to finish hiking and marking Great Cedars East. The CC would like to connect Great Cedars East to the Preserve. L. Wacker mentioned that this issue is addressed in the draft MOU with Parks & Rec and she suggested getting it on the Parks & Rec agenda. She will follow-up with Parks & Rec.

B. **Pollinator Pathway & Education** – K. Hartshorn discussed pamphlets for the May Market and volunteers. She will be attending on Saturday. P. DeLisa volunteered to attend on Friday and to reach out to the Cooperative Extension to obtain other pamphlets. The Commission discussed whether any money was available to provide to a local school to create a pollinator garden, but it appears that there are no funds currently available given an outstanding bill. Decision was made to work with the school by providing advice on setting up a pollinator garden. K. Hartshorn will bring pollinator signs to sell at the May Market and L. Wacker will provide receipts for the sale. L. Wacker suggested selling pollinator signs at the Invasive Species Program in June. She also reported that the planter by Parks & Rec has been purchased and is ready to be filled.

C. **Kayak Launch & Other Improvements** – L. Ritzhaupt reported that the proposal made at the Parks & Rec meeting to form a subcommittee with members from the CC, Parks & Rec, and the Harbor Management Commission was accepted. The subcommittee will include L. Ritzhaupt from CC, Jonathan Paradis from Parks & Rec and Scott Mitchell from Harbor Management. The
subcommittee made a list of potential kayak launch sites and conducted site visits, narrowing the choices to two; it plans to prepare a preliminary report with a proposal that will include costs. The next step will involve meeting with Chris Costa and determining what surveys need to be done. The subcommittee also plans to improve the launch area on South Cove as part of the proposal.

V. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

A. Conservation Circular & Saybrook Events Q2 (due 5/25/22) – Commission members discussed ideas for Saybrook Events and decided to ask M. Osnato to write something about plastics-free July and plastics in waterways, and to include information about the September cleanup. For the Conservation Circular, P. DeLisa agreed to write an article about osprey. Members also decided to include information on invasive plants and on what is taking place at the schools. L. Wacker will find out the timing and costs of printing the circular, and will contact Student Rep. Carlina Castro.

B. Special Projects

i. Green Up Day 4/30/22 – L. Wacker submitted information to Harbor News and put it on the town website, and K. Hartshorn will include it on Facebook.

ii. Invasive Species Program 6/18/22 – L. Wacker stated that the event is set. CC will be partnering with Acton Library, which will be handling reservations. The event will be limited to 67 people, it will be free, and will run for about 2 hours at Duffy Pavillon from 1-3 pm.

iii. Invasive plants letter to State Representatives – K. Hartshorn explained that other conservation commissions have written a letter to state representatives who are on the Environment Committee asking them to do more on invasive species. She shared the letter and stated that CC could add its name to it as a signatory.

MOTION to add Old Saybrook Conservation Commission to the letter addressed to representatives of congress regarding invasive species; MADE by K. Hartshorn and SECONDED by P. DeLisa; VOTED IN FAVOR: L. Ritzhaupt, K. Hartshorn, P. DeLisa, L. Aparo; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None. APPROVED: 4-0-0

iv. Plastic waste in LI Sound – M. Osnato was not present to discuss.

C. Commission Webpage and Additional Outreach – L. Wacker has begun to update the town website and will be working on the commission webpage. She suggested adding something about International Dark Skies week to Facebook.
VI. ADJOURNMENT

| MOTION | to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled hybrid meeting of the Conservation Commission on May 10, 2022, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room, 302 Main St., Old Saybrook; MADE by P. DeLisa and SECONDED by L. Ritzhaupt; VOTED IN FAVOR: L. Ritzhaupt, K. Hartshorn, P. DeLisa, L. Aparo; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None. APPROVED: 4-0-0 |