MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Town Hall 2nd floor conference room
302 Main Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Picklo called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present – Christine Picklo, Kelly Hartshorn, Donna Leake, Michael Osnato (remote), Peter DeLisa, Laurie Aparo (remote), Carlina Castro (remote)

Members Absent – Larry Ritzhaupt

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

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – 4/12/2022

MOTION to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 12, 2022, as presented;
MADE by P. DeLisa and SECONDED by K. Hartshorn; VOTED IN FAVOR: C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, D. Leake, M. Osnato, P. DeLisa, L. Aparo; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None. APPROVED: 6-0-0.

B. Correspondence & Announcements – none

C. Committee and Representative Reports (Significant Update Only)

i. Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions – P. DeLisa summarized two projects at Saybrook Pizza and near Big Y.
ii. **Preserve Management Committee** – C. Picklo stated that the State wants to conduct additional studies around the vernal pools and the committee is still working on a final plan to create a trail from the parking lot.

iii. **Land Trust** – K. Hartshorn reported that the Land Trust will hold its annual meeting on May 22 followed by a hike of the natural shoreline trail at Fenwick.

iv. **Parks and Rec** – none other than the kayak launch information discussed below.

v. **Student Rep.** – Carlina Castro did not have anything to report given that students are currently taking AP testing and working on their capstone projects.

vi. **Staff Report** – L. Wacker reported that Old Saybrook and Fenwick are partnering with the towns of Clinton and Westbrook on a grant application for the Long Island Futures Fund to support projects to restore the health and living resources of the Long Island Sound. If the grant is received, the money will be used to develop a multijurisdictional coastal resiliency plan and to identify projects that would mitigate the risks to our coastal assets from sea level rise and storms. The towns are drafting a letter of support to include all of the departments and commissions that would be involved. Commission members agreed to add CC to the letter.

D. **Goals and Action Tracker Update**

i. Trails Layer for MapGeo – L. Wacker stated that the data layers on MapGeo are being updated and one layer that can be added is a trails layer. The Commission can use some of its funds to provide such a layer. P. DeLisa proposed waiting until June and voting then to provide the remainder of any available CC funds towards that effort. Members agreed to wait until June.

IV. **LAND STEWARDSHIP**

A. **Open Space Monitoring** – C. Picklo stated that CC needs to mark the Great Cedars East trails and members decided to try to pick a date toward the end of May to do that. Members plan to clean Gardener’s Landing on May 21. L. Wacker stated that the 8th grade Girl Scouts troop would like to help with the cleanup. L. Wacker also reported on the company that can make benches for Great Cedars like the ones in the Preserve. D. Leake suggested asking for donations for each bench and placing a plaque on donated benches. Decision made to add to the Action Tracker and C. Picklo will bring it up at the next Preserve Management meeting. M. Osnato reported that there are 2 acres between the pickle ball courts and the police station that the town plans to make into a community park.
B. **Pollinator Pathway & Education** – P. DeLisa and K. Hartshorn reported on the Garden Club sale where they sold 8 pollinator pathway signs and received a $200 donation. C. Picklo weeded, mulched and fertilized beds at Gardener’s Landing and also bought plants. L. Wacker reported that she purchased plants for the planters at Parks & Rec and Town Hall.

C. **Kayak Launch & Other Improvements** – L. Wacker provided a report from L. Ritzhaupt. The kayak subcommittee identified a handful of potential sites for kayak racks and has contacted DEEP about any permitting issues. The subcommittee is waiting to hear back and plans to discuss all of the potential sites to attempt to obtain permits for all. One of the sites is a DOT right of way so will need permission from the State.

V. **OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

A. **Conservation Circular & Saybrook Events Q2** (due 5/25/22) – For the Circular, M. Osnato wrote an article on plastics, P. DeLisa wrote about osprey, and C. Picklo will write about invasives. For Events, M. Osnato will cut down his article and mention the September cleanup.

B. **Special Projects**

   i. **Invasive Species Program 6/18/22** – The Commission is partnering with the library. There will be books on display as well as handouts. There will be a door prize basket to include plants selected by Kathy Connolly and a book she recommends. Members discussed getting donations from local businesses to include in another basket and decided to give away only the basket with plants. K. Hartshorn suggested including a pollinator pathway sign. L. Wacker mentioned that the agenda lists talking to Commission members about what they do and suggested having some members present at the event. Members also decided to print a sign with the Commission logo and place it on an easel at the event.

   ii. **Invasive plants letter to State Representatives** – The Commission previously voted to include their name on the letter and K. Hartshorn asked to receive updates on the legislation.

   iii. **Plastic waste in LI Sound** – M. Osnato discussed that plastics in LI Sound is a major problem, which mainly comes from boaters. M. Osnato wants to bring awareness to the problem by reaching out to the town marinas and homeowner’s associations on the waterfront. C. Picklo asked M. Osnato to put together a list of all the boating groups to be divided among members.

C. **Commission Webpage and Additional Outreach** – L. Wacker and K. Hartshorn met to discuss. L. Wacker has a list of topics to include on the CC page and now needs to write something for each topic. L. Wacker will send out the list of topics.
to members to see if anything needs to be added. She also asked if anyone has pictures from GreenUp day for Sustainable CT credit.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled hybrid meeting of the Conservation Commission on June 14, 2022, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room, 302 Main St., Old Saybrook; MADE by K. Hartshorn and SECONDED by P. DeLisa; VOTED IN FAVOR: C. Picklo, K. Hartshorn, D. Leake, M. Osnato, P. DeLisa, L. Aparo; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None. APPROVED: 6-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Carolina Maharbiz, Recording Clerk