MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Town Hall 2nd floor conference room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Picklo called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL
Members Present – Christine Picklo, Larry Ritzhaupt, Kelly Hartshorn, Donna Leake, Peter DeLisa
Members Absent – Michael Osnato
Land Use Department Staff – Lynette Wacker, Assistant Town Planner;
Carolina Maharbiz, Recording Clerk

III. REGULAR BUSINESS
A. Minutes – 7/12/22

MOTION to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 12, 2022, as presented;
MADE by P. DeLisa and SECONDED by L. Ritzhaupt; VOTED IN FAVOR: C. Picklo, L. Ritzhaupt, K. Hartshorn, D. Leake, P. DeLisa; OPPOSED: None;
ABSTAINED: None. APPROVED: 5-0-0.

B. Correspondence & Announcements – C. Picklo announced that Laurie Aparo resigned from the Commission. Student Rep. Carlina Castro also resigned. C Picklo has been in touch with a teacher at the high school for assistance in identifying a new student representative. L. Wacker passed out a card from high school students thanking the Commission for help with the pollinator garden senior project.

C. Committee and Representative Reports (Significant Update Only)
i. **Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions** – P. DeLisa mentioned that redesign work has been requested on the application for commercial development next to Kohl’s.

ii. **Preserve Management Committee** – C. Picklo reported that the Ad Hoc Committee wrote a letter addressing concerns about identifying key areas and doing field work on vernal pools and plants. With respect to hunting, it is still under debate, but the Preserve Management Committee would like to have a public hearing on the issue. She also mentioned that a location has been identified to connect the parking lot to the Preserve trailhead.

iii. **Land Trust** – K. Hartshorn reported that marsh property located behind the construction near Pasta Vita will be donated to the Land Trust once construction is completed. Land Trust held their annual tree swallow cruise as a fundraiser and monarch butterfly tagging is scheduled with OAK later in September.

iv. **Parks and Rec** – L. Ritzhaupt stated that he has not yet received a response from the State about the kayak launch locations. He sent out another email and plans to reach out to Representative Devin Carney.

D. **Fiscal Year 2022-23 Planning** – The Commission discussed changing the meeting time beginning in January and agreed to consider changing the time to an earlier start time. C. Picklo stated that the Commission can review the Beautify and Sustain list at the next meeting and asked members to think about projects to focus on for the coming year. L. Wacker asked the Commission to think about working on a Sustainable CT project before the next application is due in 2023.

IV. **LAND STEWARDSHIP**

A. **Open Space Monitoring** – C. Picklo stated that the Commission is waiting on approval from Parks and Rec on the Memo of Understanding.

B. **Pollinator Pathway & Education** – C. Picklo reported that she applied fertilizer in June and deadheaded, and will need to add plants in the spring because some plants added this year did not take.

C. **Kayak Launch & Other Improvements** – discussed under Parks and Rec. Committee Report.

V. **OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

A. **Conservation Circular & Saybrook Events Magazine Q4** – C. Picklo finished the Conservation Circular and will print 50 copies. K. Hartshorn will add it to the Facebook page.
C. Picklo reported on the meeting she had with Chris Costa in July regarding the Commission voicing its concerns about what happens with land and trees. C. Costa suggested that the Commission write a letter to the Planning, Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commissions stating that would like to be notified about development on any commercial projects. C. Picklo will prepare a draft. Chris Costa also suggested reaching out to Larry Bonin on the Shellfish Commission to potentially collaborating with that Commission.

B. Special Projects

i. Plastic waste in LI Sound – M. Osnato not present to report.

ii. Coastal Cleanup 2022 – Commission members agreed to monitor and look into a cleanup next year. D. Leake suggested focusing on education about the issue and what residents can do to help.

C. Commission Webpage and Additional Outreach – L. Wacker reported that she added the list of programs and initiatives to the webpage and has begun adding links. L. Wacker and K. Hartshorn agreed to meet to work on the webpage.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled hybrid meeting of the Conservation Commission on October 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room, 302 Main St., Old Saybrook; MADE by C. Picklo and SECONDED by L. Ritzhaupt; VOTED IN FAVOR: C. Picklo, L. Ritzhaupt, K. Hartshorn, D. Leake, P. DeLisa; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None. APPROVED: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Carolina Maharbiz, Recording Clerk