



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Conservation Commission**

*Christine Picklo, Chair
Larry Ritzhaupt, Vice Chairman
Karen Giugno, Secretary*

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475
Telephone (860) 395-3131 • FAX (860) 395-1216
www.oldsaybrookct.gov

*Peter D. DeLisa
Deborah E. Mapes
Laurie Pavlos
Nina D. Regan
Talia Bauer, Student Rep.*

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HYBRID MEETING
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Picklo called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Christine Picklo, Chair; Larry Ritzhaupt (arrived at 5:09);
Karen Giugno; Peter DeLisa; Deborah Mapes; Laurie Pavlos; Talia Bauer, Student Rep

Members Absent: None

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

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – November 14, 2023

L. Ritzhaupt was not present for the vote on the minutes.

MOTION to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023. **MADE:** P. DeLisa
SECONDED: L. Pavlos; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Giugno, P. DeLisa; D. Mapes;
L. Pavlos, N. Regan; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 6-0-0

B. Correspondence and Announcements - None

C. **Committee, Representative and Staff Reports** (Significant Update Only)

i. **Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions** – P. DeLisa

He reported on the tree removal that took at 0 Middlesex Turnpike. He stated that IWWC had a site walk and he described the clearcutting into the buffer zone and inland wetlands. C. Picklo stated that she will draft a letter from CC on the matter. Commission members agreed and discussed what to include in the letter. She will send the letter to Zoning, Planning, Board of Selectmen, and IWWC.

ii. **Preserve Management Committee** – C. Picklo

The major topic concerns the Conservation Management Committee, which includes representatives from the State and the First Selectman. They will have a meeting next week where they will raise concerns to the state about hunting in the Preserve. C. Picklo will try to attend.

iii. **Old Saybrook Land Trust** – L. Pavlos

OSLT had their fundraising event at Myrcene. N. Regan attended and reported that it was a successful event.

iv. **Parks and Rec** – L. Ritzhaupt

L. Ritzhaupt will review old minutes and report back but is unaware of anything new. He discussed the sub-Committee formed to find a kayak launch. He stated that with respect to South View Circle, he was told that the original deed of gift allowed for recreational use, but he was unable to find anything in the records. He also stated that the Founder's Park location is still a possibility.

v. **Student Rep.** – T. Bauer

Ecology Club held two hikes. It is brainstorming ideas for Sustainable CT, which included projects related to the pollinator pathway or recycling. The Club is also interested in fundraising to improve the school such as through purchase of an induction oven. L. Wacker agreed to set up a meeting with T. Bauer and the high school teacher involved.

vi. **Sustainable CT** – L. Wacker

L. Wacker reported that OS received Silver status. The certification is good for 3 years and it is time to start planning for the next certification. New actions were just released from Sustainable CT and she mentioned one pertaining to improving outdoor access for all.

D. **Action Tracker**

K. Giugno read through what she updated and what is still pending. She will send it to Commission members.

IV. LAND STEWARDSHIP

- A. **Open Space Monitoring** – L. Pavlos and N. Regan
L. Pavlos stated that she accessed the Accessor’s map, which has all the parcels. She started putting it together. N. Regan is also working on a map. L. Pavlos stated that the goal is to break up all the open spaces into approximately 12 chunks.
- B. **Pollinator Pathway & Education** – D. Mapes & K. Giugno
D Mapes stated that she stopped by the gardens and the new bushes look good.
- C. **Kayak Launch & Other Improvements** – L. Ritzhaupt
Reported on this above under Committee, Representative, and Staff Reports.
- D. **Tree Preservation**
C. Picklo stated that she needs to discuss with L. Wacker about donating to SOS (Save Our Shade). SOS is targeting late April to have their event to distribute the trees and are working on funding.

V. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- A. **Conservation Circular & Saybrook Events Magazine Q3** (Due in February for late March - June events)

Plan to submit an article about lights out. K. Giugno reported on an event she attended about lights out and how to prevent birds from striking windows. She suggested having the event at the Old Saybrook library.
- B. **Commission Webpage and Additional Outreach**
L. Pavlos suggested collecting emails and asking to follow Facebook at Commission events. Commission members discussed reviving the Sustainable Saybrook webpage. K. Giugno suggested mentioning the Facebook page in Circular and Events.
- C. **Waste Reduction**
Nothing to discuss and to be removed from the agenda.

VI DISCUSSION: Commission Goals for 2024

Commission members discussed Goals for 2024. Suggestions included: (1) Lights Out in February; (2) open spaces monitoring and identification of bigger open spaces; (3) having one event in each quarter or targets for each quarter; (4) events tied to climate; (5) promoting awareness or having an educational program about what not to plant; (6) educational program about pesticide use; (7) possibility of converting property at Ayers Point into a park. C. Picklo stated that she would draft ideas to discuss at the next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting of December 12, 2023 at 6:38 p.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

MADE: D. Mapes; **SECONDED:** C. Picklo; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, L. Ritzhaupt; K. Giugno, P. DeLisa; D. Mapes; L. Pavlos, N. Regan; **OPPOSED:** None;

ABSTAINED: None. **APPROVED:** 7-0-0

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED
HYBRID MEETING
Tuesday, January 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Town Hall 2nd floor conference room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

Check our website for dial in information and additional meeting documents.

[Conservation Commission web page](#)

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