



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Parks & Recreation Commission

*Susan Esty, Chairman
Kevin Lane, Vice Chair
Jim Henderson, Secretary*

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*Star Rueckert
Nancy Gatta
Jane Wisialowski
Robert LeMire
Beth Soden*

**OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, December 13, 2023; 6:30 PM

This was a hybrid meeting

MINUTES

- 1. Call Meeting to Order** – Chairwoman Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Director Ray Allen; Chairwoman Susan Esty; Secretary Jim Henderson; Star Rueckert; Jane Wisialowski; Rob LeMire; Asst. Director Jona Paradis.
First Selectman Carl Fortuna was also in attendance.

Absent: Nancy Gatta, Beth Soden

- 2. Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes**

A **Motion** to ‘approve of the OSPR Meeting Minutes for November 8th 2023’ was made by Mr. Henderson and seconded by Ms. Wisialowski. Discussion: None. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Recognition of Guests** – None

- 4. Correspondence** - None

- 5. Review of Bills** – The commission reviewed the OSPR Monthly bills as presented by Director Allen for November 2023 (\$44,262.38).

- 6. Public Comment** – None

- 7. New Business**

A. Election of Officers

Susan Esty was nominated for Board Chairman, motion by Jim Henderson, seconded by Jane Wisialowski. No discussion, Election was approved 5-0-0.

James Henderson was nominated for Board Vice-Chairman, motion by Susan Esty, seconded by Star Rueckert. No discussion, Election was approved 5-0-0.

Star Rueckert was nominated for Board Secretary, motion by Jim Henderson, seconded by Sue Esty. No discussion, Election was approved 5-0-0.

B. Discussion of Harvey’s Beach Vendor Application

Director Allen distributed the latest version of the food vendor application for review and comment. There was some discussion concerning the March 3rd closing date, and whether that was too soon to allow for public dissemination. It was noted that the

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pertinent meeting for voting on application(s) would be April 14, 2024. Director Allen noted that the application is published for local vendors (e.g. websites, local papers) and March 8th would be an acceptable submission deadline. The fee of \$1000 in four installments was voted upon in early 2023. First Selectman Fortuna requested that he be sent a copy for himself and the Town Attorney to review for completeness.

C. Executive Session: Potential of sale or acquisition of real property

A **Motion** to ‘enter into Executive Session to discuss potential property acquisition, inviting Director Allen , Asst. Director Paradis, and First Selectman Fortuna’ was made by Jim Henderson and seconded by Ms. Wisialowski. Discussion: None. Motion passed unanimously. The Board entered Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

D. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel

Director Ray Allen announced the hiring of a new Program/Facility Assistant, Megan Siewert. Summer Camp planning is currently underway.

Asst. Director Paradis noted that Basketball registration for Grades 2-8 is complete; Connecticut Sun and Mike’s Barbershop are sponsoring, about 40 kids participating. Winter Camp for K-5 ready to go. Middle School enrichment for Grades 5-8 is ongoing. December 20 is the start date for Open Registration for programs. The Annual Snowman Building Contest on the Town Green is scheduled for Jan. 28, 2024, weather permitting.

8. Old Business

- A. **All Parks Review** – Director Allen reported there is no change, most outdoor parks are tidied for the winter and indoor facilities are all normal.
- B. **Strategic Plan of Parks Discussion**
No news, awaiting designs from Geoff Jacobsen to begin review cycle.
- C. **The Preserve Update**
Director Allen reported that the Vernal Pool Study has been completed; it will be forwarded and merged with existing reports for distribution. This will feed into the design of The Preserve trail systems. It was noted that education/signage may be necessary to curb rogue mountain bicyclists.
- D. **Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel**
The Budget Presentation to the Board of Finance is scheduled for January 27, 2024, OSPB Board reviewed details last month’s meeting. Director Allen noted that there are now 9 Capital Projects included, vice 11 earlier. In order to deposit more sand on Town Beach, we would need to get State of CT DEEP approval, will monitor regularly.

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9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report

Chairman Sue Esty reported that she attended the ARPA Ad-hoc Committee meeting and relevant Town Meetings pertaining to ARPA funds for OSPR Projects.

B. Director's Report

Director Allen reported that all is going well, looking forward to 2024.

C. Liaison Reports

Brick walkway at the OSHS Track is currently in progress, should be done by Spring.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. made by Jane Wisialowski, seconded by Rob LeMire, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

James Henderson, Secretary

*** NEXT MEETING: January 10th , 2024 ***