



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Parks & Recreation Commission

*Susan Esty, Chairman
Jin Henderson, Vice Chair
Star A. Rueckert, Secretary*

www.oldsaybrookct.gov

*Nancy Gatta
Jane Wisialowski
Robert LeMire
Beth Soden*

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

Wednesday, January 10, 2024; 6:30 PM

This was a hybrid meeting

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chairwoman Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Director Ray Allen; Chairwoman Susan Esty; Secretary Star A. Rueckert; Jane Wisialowski; Beth Soden; Nancy Gatta and Asst. Director Jona Paradis.

Absent: Jim Henderson and Robert LeMire

2. **Approval of December 2023 Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the OSPR Meeting Minutes for December 13th, 2023 was made by Jane Wisialowski and seconded by Nancy Gatta. Discussion: None. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Recognition of Guests** – None

4. **Correspondence** - Director Ray Allen distributed information regarding the Land Use Department's "Gathering Of The Land Use Agencies" presentation on January 17th at 6pm. The presentation to include the SOS (Save Our Shade) goals and objectives. Chairwoman Susan Esty encouraged commissioners to attend and stressed the importance of the town's tree canopies.

5. **Review of Bills** – The commission reviewed the OSPR Monthly bills as presented by Director Ray Allen for December 2023 (\$24, 212.16).

6. **Public Comment** – None

7. **New Business**

A. Harvey's Beach Vendor Application

Director Ray Allen presented the updated Food Vendor Application. Motion to approve the Harvey's Beach Vendor Application was made by Nancy Gatta and seconded by Jane Wisialowski. Discussion : None. Motion passed unanimously.

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B. Beach Pass Policy

Director Allen distributed the latest version of the beach pass policy for review and comment. There was some discussion concerning the potential for a new online vendor or the elimination of online beach pass sales. The Director clarified the Innkeeper's Pass. No additional changes. A motion to accept the Beach Pass Policy was made by Jane Wisialowski and seconded by Beth Soden. Discussion: None. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel** Assistant Director Jona Paradis noted the Annual Snowman Building Contest was to be postponed due to lack of snow, date TBD; basketball underway with 7 teams (numbers low for girl's, no 4-6th grade teams), summer staff meetings started with emails sent to returning counselors, summer movies and concert bookings have started with Rotary Club sponsoring and all after school programs running smoothly. Paradis stated that the new Assistant Program and Facilities Manager, Mira Siewart was doing a great job. Friday Teen Night at the Rec back on the calendar with good participation and Paradis noted that he hoped the OSMS would invite Siewart to join students at a lunch to promote the P&R programs and encourage enrollment.

8. Old Business

- A. All Parks Review** – Director Allen reported there was no change, outdoor parks are tidied for the winter and indoor facilities are all normal. Latest storm brought minimal flooding to parks. Allen mentioned a new fence to be installed by the property owner at the Old Dock and Dine property near the deck.

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 had 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. He noted that there would be future discussion on the Hunting and Trapping rules for The Preserve. Chairperson Etsy emphasized the importance of The Preserve and the potential for the Parks and recreation Commission to oversee more of the governing rules of use. She noted the January 25th Preserve Ad Hoc meeting to be held at 6pm, in the OSPR building.

D. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel

NONE

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9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report

Chairman Susan Esty reported that the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance were holding a joint Budget meeting on January 27th and encouraged commissioners to attend.

B. Director's Report

Director Allen presented the 2024-2025 budget with the only adjustment being capital requests changed from 10 to 8 items due to Ferry Road planning being incomplete. Allen reported that the town applied for a Trails Grant for the Saybrook Monument area and was denied. The application re-opens in March and he will submit a new application with updates.

C. Liaison Reports

Brick walkway at the OSHS Track is currently in progress, should be done by Spring. Shrubbery and a donor sign to be added.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. made by Jane Wisialowski, seconded by Nancy Gatta , unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Star A. Rueckert, Secretary

*** NEXT MEETING: February 14th , 2024 ***