



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK

Conservation Commission

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

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

HYBRID MEETING

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
302 Main Street, Old Saybrook

Public Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94288192022?pwd=anFIWXp2MWpMaE1ESjhoeTBQWUN5dz09>

Dial In: 929-436-2866 Meeting ID: 942 8819 2022 Passcode: 302302

One Tap Mobile: tel://9294362866,,94288192022#

For assistance with virtual meetings, please see "Zoom Meetings" on the Town web site.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Picklo called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Christine Picklo, Chair; Karen Giugno; Laurie Pavlos; Nina Regan; Talia Bauer, Student Rep

Members Absent: Larry Ritzhaupt, Vice Chairman; Peter D. DeLisa; Deborah Mapes

Land Use Department Staff Present: Lynette Wacker, Assistant Town Planner; Krista May, Recording Clerk

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – December 12, 2023

MOTION to approve minutes from December 12, 2023 that includes Nina Regan as present in the minutes; **MADE:** C. Picklo; **SECONDED:** K. Giugno; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Giugno, L. Pavlos, N. Regan; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None.
APPROVED: 4-0-0

B. Correspondence and Announcements

Slides from the CACIWC conference are online at CACIWC.org. Click on 2023. Of particular interest is information from the Keynote speaker who provided scientific data about climate change.

L. Wacker announced Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is being updated by the Planning Commission. Lynette will share information.

C. Election of Officers

C. Picklo put forth a slate of 2024 officers as follows:

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

MOTION to reelect current slate of officers for 2024 Conservation Commission.
MADE: C. Picklo; **SECONDED:** L. Pavlos; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Giugno, L. Pavlos, N. Regan; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0

The Conservation Commission must appoint a member to the Wetlands Commission so they can have a vote. Peter DeLisa was contacted by phone during the meeting and agreed to continue to sit on the Wetlands Commission.

MOTION for Conservation Commission to appoint Peter DeLisa to be a member of the Wetlands Commission for 2024. **MADE:** C. Picklo; **SECONDED:** L. Pavlos; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, K. Giugno, L. Pavlos, N. Regan; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0

Nina Regan volunteered to sit on Gateway Commission on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

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

- i. **Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions – P. DeLisa**
L. Wacker reported on behalf of P. DeLisa. Atlas Outdoor violation still ongoing. Letters were sent. Damage will be assessed and a mediation plan established. There have been a few violations lately. Commission will discuss awareness about conditions and permits. Working on a physical marker to place on the boundaries of the Wetlands to improve visibility was discussed. Notifying Land Use is an important step in the process.

- ii. **Preserve Management Committee – C. Picklo**
The Committee is concerned with addressing hunting using guns in the Preserve. There is an ongoing discussion and there might be a bigger public forum about this issue. Report on vernal pools is being reviewed. Botanical study is done. C. Picklo will provide L. Wacker with an electronic copy.
- iii. **Old Saybrook Land Trust – L. Pavlos**
No report at this time.
- iv. **Parks and Rec – L. Ritzhaupt**
No report at this time.
- v. **Student Rep. – T. Bauer**
The agenda for January is stewardship activity. A camping trip might be planned for 2024. Also, the club is brainstorming fundraising ideas for Sustainable CT.
- vi. **Sustainable CT – L. Wacker**
New actions were released and will be explained at a webinar on Friday. One new action is improving outdoor access for all. Great Cedar stewardship plan with actions would probably qualify. Plan in Natural Resources section of Town Plan could possibly qualify. A copy of new actions was distributed. A “No Mow May” initiative resulting in enhanced pollination would qualify for credit. Town is creating a landscaping guide to promote native trees and shrubs.

E. **Action Tracker**

Commission goals were discussed. K. Giugno reported that Dark Skies program was scheduled to take place Saturday, March 30th at 2pm at Acton Library but date might be changed to 23rd. It was suggested that local businesses Wild Birds or Smithland might want to be involved or sponsor. C. Picklo distributed Beautify and Sustain Old Saybrook Plan for 2024 that includes Beautify, Sustain, Educate, Outreach and Events.

IV. **LAND STEWARDSHIP**

- A. **Open Space Monitoring – L. Pavlos & N. Regan**
Progress is being made and they are working with Land Trust.

- B. **Pollinator Pathway & Education** – D. Mapes & K. Giugno
There was a discussion about “No Mow May” and having signs for residents to purchase. Residents should be informed and encouraged to participate. L. Wacker provided a sample of a sign and narrative for Facebook. Signs could be sold at Chili Fest. “PARDON THE WEEDS we are FEEDING THE BEES” was discussed.
- C. **Kayak Launch & Other Improvements** – L. Ritzhaupt
No report at this time.
- D. **Tree Preservation**
Land Use is hosting a presentation by SOS on 17th January at 6pm in the first-floor conference room. Meeting will be hybrid so anyone can attend by zoom. SOS are concerned about planting trees that are native and climate appropriate. Residents can donate to SOS via a QR code – donations will be matched by Rockfall Foundation. They received \$1,000 from Rotary Club.

V. **OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

- A. **Conservation Circular & Saybrook Events Magazine Q1** (Due Feb. for late March - June events).

The next deadline for Saybrook Events Magazine is February 7th for the edition being mailed week of March 25th. K. Giugno will write an article about Dark Skies. It was suggested that an article about “No Mow May” be written and L. Pavlos volunteered. Next deadline is May 22nd.

A circular will be put together for April and will include Dark Skies.

- B. **Commission Webpage and Add'l Outreach**

There was a discussion about creating Protected Open Space markers to identify Town owned open space and to let people know they are on protected land. Price is approx. \$2.50 each with 10% off 500. These are aluminum discs that are nailed to the tree. Stakes could be used in marsh land. There are 45 discs remaining. Lynette asked if more should be purchased. There was agreement to order another 50. Special nails that are coated should be purchased.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

- C. Picklo adjourned the meeting at 6:22pm.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED
HYBRID MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 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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