



**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, March 12, 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#>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christine Picklo called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Christine Picklo, Chair; Karen Giugno, Secretary; Peter D. DeLisa; Laurie Pavlos; Talia Bauer, Student Rep

Members Absent: Larry Ritzhaupt, Vice Chairman; Deborah Mapes; Nina Regan

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

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Minutes – January 9, 2024

MOTION to approve minutes from January 9, 2024; **MADE:** C. Picklo;
SECONDED: P. DeLisa; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Picklo, P. DeLisa, K. Giugno, L. Pavlos;
OPPOSED: None; **ABSTAINED:** None. **APPROVED:** 4-0-0

B. Correspondence and Announcements

Congratulations Talia Bauer being Student of the Month in November.

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

i. Inland Wetlands and Aquifer Commissions – P. DeLisa

There are a few applications but nothing new to report.

ii. Preserve Management Committee – C. Picklo

The biggest discussion is about hunting in the Preserve. The ad hoc committee is not in favor of hunting in the Preserve. One option is controlled hunting, for a limited amount of time, or checking hunters in and out of the land. This is a happy medium solution but there is a charge for it to work this way. There will be a public hearing. State supports hunting for recreation.

Entire boundary is getting marked this week with the state so it will be done appropriately. Specific signs are being used for marking.

iii. Old Saybrook Land Trust – L. Pavlos

The Annual Meeting will be March 24th at OS Pavilion at 2pm. The OSLT wants to do more fundraising. On April 20th there will be a vernal pool hike at Clark Field. On June 23rd there will be an OS Town Street Party. It was suggested that there should be a Conservation Commission table present to collect emails and ask people to join Facebook. This event would be a great opportunity to gather information on people who are interested in Conservation Commission Communications.

iv. Parks and Rec – L. Ritzhaupt

L. Ritzhaupt not present so no report.

v. CT River Gateway Commission – N. Regan

N. Regan not present so no report.

vi. **Student Rep.** – T. Bauer

The camping trip has been cancelled. Will try again next year. On January 27th there was a project on the Oyster River to cut invasive species out of bushes. L. Wacker asked T. Bauer to tell her how many students engaged in this activity as it might count as a sustainability event. T. Bauer reported that Ecology Club is working on a Sustainable CT Fundraiser. They are also cleaning up the school green house and make it functional again. Fruits and vegetables grown could be served in the cafeteria. The space needed to be cleaned out and was done in February but another Saturday session will complete the job. They are also working on web page.

vii. **Sustainable CT** – L. Wacker

Old Saybrook is silver certified as a result of the August application. The Town did not make the Climate Leader Designation and will submit again for April application hearing. A total of 150 points are required to be earned from activities related to climate, increasing open space, an open space plan, solar energy and tracking energy use, replacing fleet vehicles with electric, create a bicycle friendly plan - all current activities are being documented and new projects initiated.

D. **Action Tracker**

Saybrook Events magazine deadline for articles is May 22nd.

There is a light pollution page on the website and ideas for updates.

This Saturday, Lights Out Connecticut will meet at the library at 3pm. Having this activity listed on the Town's electronic sign counts toward sustainable Connecticut.

No Mow May signs are available to purchase on Amazon. It was suggested that Facebook be used to direct people where to find signs online that can be printed. Buying signs will be tabled for next year.

SOS (Save Our Shade) have reached their goal and raised some dollars to buy trees. Focus is now on finding people to sign up for trees. There have been 15 requests so far. The group will have four different kinds of trees and there should be enough for a Fall give-a-way as well. SOS will be distributing trees on April 27th at the Congregational Church from 10am – 4pm. Trees were purchased wholesale. A 7ft x 3ft vinyl banner will be put up outside Congregational Church to promote the Conservation Commission. Any trees left over could be donated to the town.

SOS made a presentation to Town Departments. Old Saybrook has the lowest number of trees and needs more. Voices are being heard and there will be a Town tree committee.

There was a discussion about clearing on Stonebrook Road. L. Wacker stated that there are no regulations with regard to cutting down trees - if someone wants to cut down trees on their own private property nothing can be done. If a building is going to go up on that cleared land, however, they will have to get a permit from Zoning.

IV. **LAND STEWARDSHIP**

A. **Open Space Monitoring** – L. Pavlos & N. Regan

Groupings of parcels could be organized and connected on a spreadsheet making 8 sections instead of over 100. L. Wacker can help with mapping.

L. Wacker presented aluminum OS Protected Open Space plaques. Galvanized nails are needed to attach them to trees.

Larry Ritzhaupt asked for a group of 6 - 8 people to meet in Great Cedar West on March 16th or 30th from 8:30am – 10:30am. P. DeLisa will attend.

B. **Pollinator Pathway & Education** – D. Mapes & K. Giugno

Nothing to report at this time.

C. **Kayak Launch & Other Improvements** – L. Ritzhaupt

No report until next month.

D. **Tree Preservation**

Discussed earlier.

V. **OUTREACH & EDUCATION**

A. **Conservation Circular & Saybrook Events Magazine Q2** (Due May 22 for July – Sept. events).

The circular could be printed in April and feature No Mow May as well as one or two more articles that would make the flyer double sided. The effort will be made to have it come out in April. K. Giugno will write a Dark Skies article.

“Home Grown National Parks” was discussed. It’s a program where individuals can participate in nature and get on the map. This promotes good stewardship of property. C. Picklo will write an article about this.

Articles need to be submitted for the circular to be completed in April.

Events Magazine – due May 22nd – this will be discussed at the next meeting,

B. Commission Webpage and Additional Outreach

Add items to Facebook.

L Wacker has posted a native plants page on the website. She has been working on it for Sustainable CT and it has a lot of useful information.

The Conservation Commission will have a table and provide information at Old Saybrook Garden Club Mother’s Day plant sale. The Commission could promote and educate residents about Plastic Free July at this event.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

C Picklo adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED
HYBRID MEETING

Tuesday, April 9, 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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