



# TOWN OF OLD LYME

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## Minutes – Regular Meeting

July 24, 2023, 7.30pm

Shoreline Community Center

**Present:** Frank Pappalardo (Chair), Michaelle Pearson (Secretary), Frank Maratta, Joann Reis Lishing, Robert Carlson (Alternate), Jackie Miano (Alternate),

**Absent:** Paul Orzel, Harry Plaut

**Guests:** Paula Melillo, Angelo Grasso, Joyce Grasso, Tom Larsen, Carolyn Miranda, Kathleen Tracy, Keith Henson, Rita Henson, Patricia Pappalardo, Richard Avezzie, James Ledger, Kristin Garcia, Martha Shoemaker, Cheryl Poirier.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chairman Frank Pappalardo at 7:35 pm.  
Alternate Robert Carlson appointed for Harry Plaut.
2. **Approval of June 2023 minutes. MOTION** to approve: Bob Carlson. Joann Lishing seconded. All in favor.

### 3. **Public Comment:**

Kathleen Tracy (Hartford Ave.) noted that the parking lot is supposed to remain open until 9pm, but that it is often closed at 6pm. Frank Pappalardo asked Trooper Weber about this, and the response was that it was a personnel issue. Ms. Tracy stated that the beach parking should be open in the evenings for people to patronize businesses between 6 and 9 pm. What can we do to make sure this stays open? Frank Pappalardo said he would look into it, and that there have also been some issues with the lot remaining unlocked past 9pm.

Kristin Garcia (owner of The Salty Monkey) said she would like to host a vendor fair on 8/13 and 9/10 from 10-5pm. She's contacted Ledge Light for approval and would like support from the Sound View Commission. Artisans, local community vendors. Frank Pappalardo said this will be discussed under New Business.

Carolyn Miranda (Biscayne Blvd.) expressed concern at a lack of ADA parking along Hartford Avenue. Stated that the sidewalks are nice, but if you use a walker or cane and have to park in the Town lot, those 3 spaces are not ADA-compliant, and it is difficult to reach the boardwalk. Frank Pappalardo said this will be addressed later in the Agenda.

James Ledger (Portland Ave.) said the exit from the Town lot onto Portland Avenue is causing traffic and safety issues for the private parking lots on Portland Avenue. The 1997 Pond Road agreement also says that : all cars must exit the Town lot onto Hartford Avenue. Directing every vehicle onto Portland Avenue, where there are no sidewalks for pedestrians creates a dangerous safety issue. Frank Pappalardo agreed that the exit was supposed to have been used for emergencies only at the discretion of the police, and not as a regular exit. Rich Avezzie (Swan Ave.) agreed, saying a car came darting out of the parking lot and nearly hit his family, who were walking. People need to be directed in a safe manner. Frank Pappa-



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pardo said that the SVC tries to resolve issues as locally as possible, but its clear that this needs to be escalated.

Paula Melillo (Portland Ave.) said that she was on the beach last week and witnessed unsafe operation of the Ranger ATV. This is an ongoing problem that needs to be addressed. Frank Pappalardo said that he forwarded these concerns to the Police and Selectmen, and has not received a response. The SVC is not authorized to tell the police how to do their job. The Selectmen and police have seen the emails regarding this issue.

4. **Correspondence:** Khalid Tawfik (Hartford Ave.): requested that the stop sign in front of his house be moved to the end of the street. Frank Pappalardo explained that when the street was reconfigured the ADA sidewalks and crosswalks affected the placement of the stop sign. Referred to Selectmen and Police.

Brian Cornell (Portland Ave. Ext.) wrote regarding unsafe operation of the Ranger ATV. This has been brought to the attention of the police and Board of Selectmen.

Rich Avezzie (Swan Ave.) wrote in favor of the speed humps.

Nancy Sarra and Michael Halloran are new residents on Swan Ave. Wrote in favor of the speed humps.

Bill Messina (Portland Ave.): In favor of speed humps.

Frank Pappalardo said the Commission will assess over the winter and determine whether we need to add more humps.

5. **July 4 Review:** Received an email from Trooper Weber citing long hours over the holiday. 70 tickets (mostly parking and alcohol violations) were issued. Officers responded to an incident at Old Lyme Shores concerning rowdy youths on the beach.
6. **Concerts:** This Thursday: Audacity. Rock covers and modern country. 8/10 Red Satin; 8/24 Jovial Crew. Last week's concert was very well attended: over 300 people. There have been some issues with the electricity. Most towns provide electricity. Frank Pappalardo brought a generator for Souls on Fire, and will provide again, but the generator must be of a specific type, and will cost 2K or more. Michaelle Pearson suggested including it in the SVC budget for next year.
7. **Benches, beach ramp, parking:** Five Benches have been ordered. Should delivered on Friday. Three at Hartford Ave., two at Swan Ave. Handicapped parking: Frank Pappalardo met with Amy Bonatti and Jennifer Datum of the Town's ADA Committee. Determined that there are more than the number of handicap spaces required for the amount of parking available. There are three in the lot. Suggested that one of those spots be moved to the street. Will speak to Ed Adanti and need approval of the Board of Selectmen based on the ADA Committee's recommendation. Talked about the gap in the walkway, will have it filled with some type of bridge material.
8. **Pond Road:** There was a lively discussion regarding Pond Road at last month's meeting. Frank Pappalardo spoke with Mark Mongillo, the President of the Miami Beach Association (MBA). MBA would like to make Pond Road private again and have another access road built by the town through the lot. This appears to be in violation of the 1997 agreement. The Board of Selectmen have referred this information to the town attorney. Mr. Mongillo was clear that MBA would not do anything unilaterally, but will wait for the attorneys to discuss. Scott Boulanger (MBA) said there had been a lot of miscommunication, and that this past weekend was a good example of the is-



sues MBA was concerned with. If the town would step up with some traffic control, a lot of these issues would be resolved. The town didn't have enough staff to handle the crowds on Sunday.

9. **New Business:** The Economic Development Commission hosted a ribbon cutting for The Salty Monkey, a new business this year at the former Corsino's/Surface Shack location. Frank Pappalardo said he was expecting another new business called Figs & Olives to open at the Sound View Market (former donut shop) location soon.
10. **Shoreline Gateway Committee Presentation.** Selectwoman Martha Shoemaker, who is the Co-Chair of the Shoreline Gateway Committee, presented the survey results summary and introduced the shoreline gateway concept with a PowerPoint presentation followed by a question and answer session. Kristen Garcia said she had reported some vandalism at The Salty Monkey to the police, and was told "welcome to Sound View". Ms. Garcia said it was not welcoming or encouraging for new businesses to hear that. When she mentions that she'd like to eventually apply for a liquor license, patrons say the town won't support you, don't even try. The constant negativity is discouraging. Kathleen Tracy, who is a member of the Gateway Committee said there are a small but vocal group of people who don't want to see any changes, but that most people are in favor of positive changes. We just need to be louder. Rich Avezzie agreed, pointing out that many people's ideas about Sound View and the Gateway area are not based on experiences with residents, but are based on visitors' behavior. Mr. Avezzie stated that as a resident, he can't control who comes here and visits, and how they behave, but the town government can. Why don't they try to at least curb the bad behavior? We residents can't be vigilantes. The unresolved sewer situation is another issue that keeps the area from moving forward. No one wants to spend a substantial amount on an engineered septic system only to be told by the town they must connect to sewers. The town should commit to letting properties with engineered systems be exempt from connecting to sewers. That would encourage and speed up development.

Frank Pappalardo said he'd like to build upon Kathleen Tracy's comment that we have to be louder and stronger than the detractors. Social media is a mixed bag. The naysayers are constant and post negativity over and over again. Positive comments get a lot less attention. Rita Henson (Pond Rd.) said she had thought about moving, but loves our neighborhood. There are good people here and a strong sense of community. Frank Pappalardo recalled the Osprey Festival that was held in Sound View in 2016. The street was packed with over 1500 people. We need more positive events. Selectwoman Martha Shoemaker said the week before school starts is usually a quiet time. Maybe we could sponsor an Old Lyme night to entice local people down here. She also addressed a question about the large tree that had washed up on Miami Beach, saying that the town was discussing various options of having Harry Plaut's crew and/or Public Works to remove the tree. There's a question of jurisdiction. This is a tentative plan only. Paula Melillo (Portland Ave.) said that the Sound View Beach Association hosts wonderful events that are open to the public, but very few people come from other areas of town. Michaelle Pearson spoke about many people's misperceptions about Sound View and the need to convert people one at a time. Keith Henson (Pond Rd.) said that the Police and Rangers should spread out their patrols up and down the street. Martha Shoemaker said there was a shortage of Rangers this year. The town has had trouble filling those positions.



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Rita Henson said the zoning has to change. It's very difficult for people to renovate their properties. Zoning needs to work with people. Martha Shoemaker agreed, stating that the Gateway area currently includes four different zones. We need more sensible zoning. The Gateway Committee will present their findings to the Board of Selectmen on 8/7, then will post the summary and a pdf of the entire survey on the town website.

**Motion** for the Sound View Commission to send a letter to the Selectmen supporting Kristen Garcia's idea to host a vendor fair at the Salty Monkey on 8/13 and 9/10. **Motion: Joann Lishing, Second Frank Maratta. All in favor. Motion carried.**

7. **MOTION to Adjourn:** Joann Lishing, Second Frank Maratta. **All in favor.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9.02pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Michaëlle Pearson, Secretary