



TOWN OF OLD LYME

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Board of Selectmen

Minutes – Regular Meeting

7 August 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Hall of the Memorial Town Hall

Call-In Phone: 1-605-472-5727 Access Code 3819718

1. **Call to Order** - First Selectman Griswold called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **Attendance**

Present Board Members: First Selectman Timothy Griswold and Selectwoman Martha Shoemaker and Selectman Matthew Ward.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** 3 July 2023 (Reg.), 20 July 2023 (Spec.),

Selectwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the 3 July 2023 regular meeting minutes and Selectman Ward seconded the motion. Discussion: Under Item 5. Public Comment - Robert Haff, change the sentence in the minutes that reads: "while approval to locate the Stones in the triangle was requested, it was not granted." to read: "while approval to locate the Stones in the triangle was requested, I would debate that I approved it." Selectwoman Shoemaker motioned to accept the minutes, as amended above. The MOTION PASSED.

Selectman Ward made a motion to approve the 20 July 2023 special meeting minutes and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The MOTION PASSED.

4. **Public Comment**

Scot Boulanger, Miami Beach, read a letter from Rose a Miami Beach resident who was very disappointed when the Town did not assist with the removal of the tree that became lodged in the sand at Miami Beach after the heavy rains. He also feels the lack of police presence after 5:00 p.m. in Sound View is disrespectful.

Carolynn Miranda, Biscayne Blvd. is here to support the Pond Rd. closure and is also concerned with the Town's lack of involvement with the tree removal. Nothing has been done to correct the size of the handicapped parking spots in the Town lot in Sound View. Speeding is worse and nobody is paying attention to the racing on Route 156. She would like to establish a commission to look into it.

Kevin McMahon was in attendance 3.5 years ago to present to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance a property tax relief proposal for veterans. He has not heard a word from anyone since. What is the next step? First Selectman Griswold said a knowledgeable group should be formed. Selectman Ward said he would follow up personally.

Mary Jo Nosal, agrees the Town should have assisted with the tree removal. She suggests Congressman Courtney be invited to hear how the Town spent ARPA funds. The Town should encourage assembly on Town property and not form a committee to establish a process for the use of Town property.

Keith Henson, 11 Pond Rd., is a parking lot owner who opposes the Miami Beach Assoc. plan to make Pond Rd. private. This would shut down his business and he is being targeted unfairly.

Sheila Riffle, 57 Coult Lane, thanked the Board of Selectmen for moving forward with the signage and removing plantings on Tantommaheag Landing that obstruct traffic. She heard that the Tantommaheag Landing sign was removed and that the plantings have been replanted.

First Selectman Griswold read a portion of an email from Frank Gagliardo, of the DEEP, which reads the State of CT holds title to the land waterward of the high tide water line. The State would likely not remove debris, even if it were below the high-water line. If an Emergency Declaration were declared,

there might be funds available for property owners from FEMA. The Town does not have the manpower to perform this type of work. If the Town assisted a beach association with debris removal, other beach associations would surely ask for similar assistance.

5. **Communications:** None

6. **Miami Beach Assoc. Discussion of Pond Rd.**

Mark Mongillo, President of Miami Beach Assoc., presented a Proposal for Collaborative Solutions Between the Town of Old Lyme and the Miami Beach Association (MBA). He said he would like to resolve the Pond Rd. issue in an amicable way.

He recently met onsite with First Selectman Griswold and Selectwoman Shoemaker to propose making Pond Rd. a private road for Miami Beach and that the Town installs a new road to the north and parallel to the private MBA Pond Rd. As a gesture of good faith and upon approval of MBA's Board, MBA would share excavation and paving costs and "gift" 2 small parcels that abut the Town parking lot to Town. An alternative plan is for the Town to install a connector road on the northern portion of the parking lot; but this is not the preferred option. Mr. Mongillo stated that the 1997 Settlement Agreement is not valid because the MBA President who signed it did not have the proper authority to do so. Selectwoman Shoemaker said a traffic study is required to ensure safety and best flow. MBA had Jones Engineering do a survey and the Town also did a survey when the sidewalk project started. The surveys need to be compared.

There was a discussion between parking lot owner Keith Henson & Mark Mongillo that the Selectwoman Shoemaker requested be finished in private.

The meeting recessed at 6:41 and resumed at 6:44

7. **Old Business:**

Project Updates:

- i. Halls Rd. Improvements – The Committee has a meeting scheduled for 10 Aug. The Town will be meeting with DEEP representatives soon to discuss the conveyance of a 6-acre parcel between the Hangry Goose restaurant and Rte. 1, which would be helpful for access to the pedestrian bridge.
 - ii. Sound View Sewers – First Selectman Griswold said a letter from the three private beaches and the Town will be sent to the DEEP asking when the \$14 to \$17 million forgivable loan will be approved.
 - iii. Senior Ctr. Expansion – The Committee is in the process of hiring a Const. Manager and preparing the Lyme and Old Lyme STEAP applications for submission by 18 August.
 - iv. Ferry Road Sidewalk – We are finalizing a sidewalk easement around a tree at 7 Ferry Rd. Once done, we will obtain DOT approval to put the project out to bid, hopefully in August. The STEAP Grant 1 year extension was granted.
 - v. Swan Brook Outlet – Outflow Pipe Running & Trying to Schedule Video Inspection.
Selectwoman Shoemaker said the catch basins at the Portland Rd. and Pond Rd. intersection are full of water. She thinks an engineer should check this out.
- a) Tantummaheag Landing – On 1 August, the Town removed certain plantings that blocked vehicular access, mowed the trail leading to the water and installed a sign in front of the stone pillars stating "Tantummaheag Landing" with the hours of operation. First Selectman Griswold confirmed that the sign was removed and that the plantings were replanted, so he is planning the next step.
 - b) 36-1 Buttonball Rd. – No Report.
 - c) Shoreline Gateway Committee – Selectwoman Shoemaker said the Committee will present its findings at the September Board of Selectman meeting.

d) **Form Committee to Establish Process for Use of Town Property**

First Selectman Griswold said there is not an established procedure for the use of Town property, such as the placement of Witness Stones, signage and monuments. Selectwoman Shoemaker feels First Selectman Griswold is responding to complaints about the Democratic Town Committee's tent and Committee members serving donuts during the Memorial Day Parade. She said the Board of Selectmen should bring the Town together; not divide it. She would like to see if other towns have a process in place. Selectman Ward agrees research is needed and the Board of Selectmen can develop a policy without a committee. First Selectman Griswold said he is not critical of the activities of the Democrats, he does not approve of words "Democratic Town Committee" emblazoned on the tent. He thinks there should be rules about political displays on Town property. Further, he thinks there should be an approval process to allow the placement of permanent items on Town property.

8. New Business:

a. Fireworks Rescheduled to Saturday 12 August at 9:00 PM and the Town Band will play at 7:30. Selectman Ward suggested a rain date be a part of the permit application.

b. **Staff Changes:**

Finance Director – Anita Mancini

Land Use Technician – Craig Bonatti

Human Resource Consultant – Sheila McKinley-Bell

Selectwoman Shoemaker said the HR Consultant's contract is for six months (Mid-January 2024) which will enable the new Board of Selectmen to decide how to proceed at that time..

9. Other Business:

First Selectman Griswold attended an Open House at the Old Saybrook Transfer Station for the opening of its new Commodities Exchange. This facility enables residents to donate usable items, that would otherwise be discarded, to the Exchange and these items will be offered free to residents. He will share the information for Old Lyme to consider.

Selectwoman Shoemaker took a kayak tour of the Black Hall River/Buckey Brook with 2 homeowners on May 28th. It was a treacherous paddle and the Black Hall Pond property owners' complaints should not be ignored. She said the water in Black Hall Pond is rising and beaver dams are impeding the flow of water. There was a discussion about the ownership of Black Hall River/Buckey Brook. Selectwoman Shoemaker will be doing her research.

10 Adjournment

Selectwoman Shoemaker made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. and Selectman Ward seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The MOTION passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne McAuliffe, Clerk