



TOWN OF OLD LYME

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Minutes – Regular Meeting

August 28, 2023, 7.30pm

Shoreline Community Center

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

Absent: Paul Orzel,

Guests: Paula Melillo, Angelo Grasso, Joyce Grasso, Tom Larsen, Carolyn Miranda, Kathleen Tracy, Keith Henson, Rita Henson, Patricia Pappalardo, Richard Avezzie, Laurene Avezzie.

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 July 2023 minutes. MOTION** to approve: Frank Maratta , Joann Lishing seconded. All in favor.
3. **Public Comment:**
Joann Lishing said she asked one of the beach cleaners if the new litter baskets were helping to reduce the amount of garbage on the beach, and he said that there was less litter since the baskets were installed.
Joyce Grasso said there have been no rangers around, except driving around at 5pm, but not during the rest of the day.
Paula Melillo said she had not seen any rangers walking the beach, but Miami Beach Security has been on the beach every day.
4. **Correspondence:** None.
5. **Shoreline Gateway Committee Report:** Presentation will be shown at the Board of Selectmen meeting on September 5th. Committee member Joe Camean submitted a letter to the Economic Development Commission seeking an Italian bakery to open a shop in the Gateway area. The Gateway commission also discussed the potential for mini golf, and other activities.
6. **Concerts:** Many of the summer concerts were cancelled due to weather. June: Old Lyme Town Band was cancelled. July: Souls On Fire was outdoors, then the country band played about 40 mins before rainout. Red Satin played in the Center due to rain; Jovial Crew sea chanteys also. Frank Pappalardo suggested we shift everything earlier by a week next year due to school schedules and rain dates.
7. **Facilities Review:** *Benches, beach ramp, parking:* Five benches have been delivered. Three at Hartford Ave., two at Swan Ave. Someone moved the picnic tables. They were moved back by Public Works. Handicapped ADA 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. Frank Pappalardo met with Ed Adanti and police. There was concern about having an ADA space in the street. Recommended we look at the ADA spaces in the town lot over the winter to ensure they meet requirements, with matting or a pad. Will look at this for



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next year's budget. Lot has been open until 9pm. Paul Orzel and Jim Ledger have been closing the gate. Police have had an issue getting rangers because they need to pass a background check. Suggest we hire a parking lot attendant through the town to supervise the lot and close the gate. Would be different criteria. Frank will check with Don Bugbee.

Parking Lot: Revenue figures for the lot: Turnover is good. From 7/1 to 7/24 revenue 21k. Average transaction was \$7.50-\$20. Some days very few transactions due to rain. On nice days the total was much higher. 141 transactions was the high. Difficult to analyze because there was so much rain this summer.

Golf carts: There have been some issues. The total number of legal golf carts is around 15. We do not have reciprocity with our beach neighbors. Golf carts with Sound View plates will be towed at other beaches if left unattended. Michaelle Pearson reported seeing many golf carts travelling on Shore Road, which is illegal. Tom Larsen suggested a combined permit for all 3 beaches with shared benefits and revenue. Frank Pappalardo said this had been suggested in the past and Miami and Old Colony were against it. Suggest Tom might bring it up again with Miami, as he is a member there. Jackie Miano and Harry Plaut arrived at 8.10pm.

Noise complaints: Met with Harbor Commission. DEEP sent a patrol boat out the weekends but we've had weekday issues. Tom Larsen said he saw the DEEP boat on Sunday. There was a Jetski inside the swim area, but the patrol did nothing. Michaelle Pearson said it may have been the fire boat on Sunday, doing training, not enforcement. Frank Pappalardo said the State Police have been patrolling, and the Pavilion water taxi has been telling boats to turn down their music. Kathleen said she has pictures from August 20th. This is a problem all along the coast. Not just here.

Pond Road: Frank Pappalardo said there was nothing new to report as far as he knows, regarding Pond Road. The Town Attorney is reviewing the matter. At the time of the agreement, Miami Beach had been represented by legal counsel, it wasn't just the President acting alone.

The Federation of Old Lyme Beaches (FOLB) has been reactivated. It is a corporation that includes Edge Lea, Sound View, Miami Beach, Old Lyme Shores, Old Colony and the Hawks' Nest Associations. **(White Sands?)** It has a charter and bylaws. Its purpose is to coordinate across all of the beaches so there is a single voice for the shoreline. Met a few weeks ago and spoke about the upcoming election. There are many issues are on the table that affect the beaches. FOLB is hosting a conversation with the candidates on 9/17 at the Shoreline Community center at noon. All four Selectmen candidates will be there. Three of them will be running the town next year. This is an opportunity to ask your questions. Frank Pappalardo said he had spoken to the chairs of the Republican Town Committee and Democratic Town Committee to get the word out. We want to have it be a conversation, but need some ground rules.



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8. **Other Business:** Business outreach. Took a step with the new parking to make things better for the businesses. Would like to reach out to the businesses and asked them for more input. Frank Maratta will act as the representative for this outreach.

Discussion of possibly moving the town fireworks to the beach for the Fourth of July. Would be collaboration among the beaches and the Town.

7. **MOTION to Adjourn:** Joann Lishing, Second Bob Carlson. **All in favor.**

Meeting adjourned at 8.43pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michaëlle Pearson, Secretary