



TOWN OF OLD LYME

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Board of Selectmen

Minutes – Regular Meeting

2 October 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:** 5 September 2023 (Reg.), 14 September 2023 (Spec.)
Selectman Ward made a motion to approve the 5 September 2023 regular meeting minutes and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The MOTION PASSED.
Selectwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the 14 September 2023 special meeting minutes and Selectman Ward seconded. The MOTION PASSED.
4. **Sewer Project Update:** Rich Prendergast- WPCA Chairman
Mr. Prendergast received an email from the DEEP stating that the \$15,000,000 forgivable funds have been approved, with conditions. The Town and the 3 private beaches meet the DEEP's "affordability" criteria (2.00% of median household income for the annual sewer payments). The extension of the New London IMA (from September 1st) has been verbally agreed upon. The project can go out to bid again and all four beach entities agree this should occur. The project could start by the end of next year, if the Town and the private beach associations approve the plan.
5. **Public Comment**
Mary Daley – Portland Ave. opposes the sewer project. She would like to see new testing of the Sound View septic systems completed before the project goes out to bid again. She said green technology is a cheaper option. DEEP and the CT Dept. of Health disagree on the pollution issue. She asked the Board of Selectmen to delay their decision until the new administration is voted in. Her statement will be posted on the Town Website.
Rich Prendergast- WPCA Chairman, disagrees with everything Mary Daley said. Data shows clear evidence of pollution. The WPCA Commission members are volunteers and are doing their best to serve the community. While the terms of the IMA are not perfect, he recommends the four beaches sign on.
Carolynn Miranda thanked the Board for starting to initiate a plan to mitigate traffic. She would like Boards, Commissions & Committees to be more transparent. Residents should be able to participate remotely in all of their meetings. She also thinks the Shoreline Gateway Committee survey results should be shared with other Boards & Commissions.
Sheila Riffle – 57 Coult Lane asked First Selectman Griswold "what is the best way to reach you"? She sent an email on August 24, 2023 and has not received a response and she thinks no response is dismissive. First Selectman Griswold said the phone is best. He said there is more work to be done at the Tantummaheag Landing.
Cathy Tracey – 76 Hartford Rd. would like the sewer decision to be made by the incoming administration.
Dennis Melluzzo - would like the wells in Soundview to be tested at a cost of \$48,000 and the results submitted to DEEP. Where are the minutes from the WPCA meetings? He believes there is a conflict of interest concerning one of the private beach officials who has hired a lobbyist to work on the sewer

project. He thinks at least one Selectperson should attend each WPCA meeting. He said there are only 2 Soundview residents on the WPCA and thinks there should be more. Selectman Ward said living in the Sound View area is not a requirement and that several non-Sound View WPCA members have construction backgrounds and pertinent expertise. He said these members are not against you.

6. **Communications:** Selectwoman Shoemaker heard from a concerned parent about excessive speeding on Lyme Street and suggested more stop signs are needed. First Selectman Griswold and Selectman Ward said stop signs should not be used to slow down traffic and an excessive number would be very frustrating.

7. Appointments: None

8. Old Business:

Project Updates:

- i. Halls Rd. Improvements – The Board of Finance agreed to modify the \$19,500 appropriation so the funds may be used for both the Halls Rd. and Bow Bridge projects. The Halls Rd. Committee will host two open house information sessions so residents may learn more about the Bow Bridge project and provide feedback to the Committee. The first session will be on Thursday October 5th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at Town Hall.
- ii. Sound View Sewers – Above (Item 4).
- iii. Senior Ctr. Expansion – LYME AND OLD LYME WERE JUST AWARDED \$500,000 STEAP GRANTS! The Senior Center Building Committee approved Newfield Construction as the Construction Manager and are working to finalize the contract. The Senior Center will close on 30 Sep for the duration of the renovation and expansion. Jeri Baker thanked the Building Committee and all 1,200 Senior Center members. She expects the project to take 9 to 12 months to complete.
- iv. Ferry Road Sidewalk – DOT’s final approval is expected soon and then the project can be put out to bid. A total of five trees will be removed – three larger trees and two small trees.
- v. Swan Brook Outlet – Giant-Vac Cleared Outflow Pipes.
The Garvin family will assist with the required digging sand out in front of the outflow pipes when they are both clogged. Selectwomen Shoemaker observed both pipes flowing beautifully this past weekend. She asked First Selectman Griswold to respond to Nancy O’Brien about the sidewalk cracks that likely resulted when large equipment entered the beach. He will inspect the damage with Ms. Obrien and expects the repairs will occur in the spring.
- a) Tantummaheag Landing – No Report
- b) 36-1 Buttonball Rd. – The Harbor Management Commission will start working on the dock permit.
- c) Shoreline Gateway Committee – Selectwomen Shoemaker said the Committee will share its survey’s raw data with other Commissions. They formed five subcommittees to work on specific tasks and the subcommittees will report back at the October meeting.

9. New Business:

- a. Potential Affordable Housing Lots – Michael Fogliano
The Commission has identified two potential R20 zoned Town owned building lots off Hillcrest Ave. and Grand View Rd. One is a 0.46 acre lot and the other consists of five very small parcels that must be merged into one lot. The Board of Selectmen would like to see a formal cost estimate before proceeding with soil and water tests, which Mr. Fogliano estimates may cost \$1,500 per lot.
- b. Conservation Commission – \$1,950 Budget Request – Gary Gregory, Chair

The previous Commission Chair only budgeted for the Commission clerk and Mr. Gregory is asking for an additional \$1,950 appropriation for brochures/publications, water quality testing, materials to build bat and owl nests and more. Selectwomen Shoemaker suggested he reach out to the CT Council of Municipalities, as they offer free brochure printing.

Selectman Ward made a motion to recommend that the Board of Finance approve an appropriation of \$1,950 to augment the Conservation Commission budget and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The MOTION PASSED

- c. Resolution of Support for O.L. Land Trust's Grant Application - First Selectman Griswold read a resolution endorsing the O.L. Land Trust's plan to purchase the 43-acre Eklund parcel at 188 Four Mile River Rd. and to support the Trust's 2023 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant application. Selectwoman Shoemaker made a motion to support the O.L. Land Trust's purchase of the Eklund parcel and to endorse its 2023 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Application and Selectman Ward seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The MOTION PASSED
- d. Developing a Town Policy for Social Media - Selectwoman Shoemaker said the policy is being reviewed by Town Counsel and it should reduce the number of FOI requests from the public.
- e. United Way of S.E. CT Award for Innovation - First Selectman Griswold said this is a remarkable achievement and congratulated founder Jim Ward and many other active participants. Selectwoman Shoemaker was happy to hear that the garden will be increasing in size.
- f. Staff Changes - Police Cadet Ryan Sommers was sworn in and will start at the Police Academy on 6 Oct 23.

10. **Other Business:**

Selectwoman Shoemaker has good news. She was able to secure the correct brackets for the fish kiosk sign to replace the wrong ones. Her efforts saved the Town about \$500.

Selectman Ward thanked Teri Lewis for her time served on the Economic Development Commission.

11. **Adjournment**

Selectman Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM. and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The MOTION passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne McAuliffe, Clerk