

Minutes of the Sound View Beach Commission Formation Committee  
UNAPPROVED

Meeting held: May 27, 2009 at Shoreline Community Center, 7.30pm

Present: Regular Members: David Griswold, Harry Plaut, Gail Fuller, Frank Pappalardo (Chairman), Michaelle Pearson (Secretary).

Alternate: Russell Carlo

Also Present: Selectman Skip Sibley, Ex-Officio

Absent: Michelle Zito (Alternate)

Call to Order: 7.32pm

Motion made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Mr. Carlo to approve the meeting minutes of 4.27.09. Motion carried.

There were several members of the Public present. No Public Comment.

7.33: Business: Member Reports:

Harry Plaut reported on Westport, Milford and Old Orchard Beach.

Westport: Parks & Rec issues permit for events. Permits are required for various activities taking place on the beach including photography, especially for commercial purposes.

Milford: Beaches are overseen by Parks & Rec.

Old Orchard Beach, Maine: Diversified commercial industry; seasonal, hotels, etc. Beach is administered by Town. A variety of ordinances pertain to the beach area, including regulations concerning water toys, vegetation, and sleeping on the beach. Mr. Plaut stated that when he cleans the beach in the early morning hours he often finds people sleeping. All complaints are handled directly by Town Police. Fines were substantial, and accruable. Multiple fines for each repeated offence, per day.

David Griswold reported on Waterford, Watch Hill, Greenwich and Old Saybrook: Waterford had significant info on beach parking, fees etc. Saybrook was a complex situation due to the number of beaches, both public and private with different sets of rules. Mr. Griswold stated that Watch Hill, RI has a 5-year strategic plan, which would possibly be of interest to this Committee. Greenwich beaches are administered by Parks & Rec.

Greenwich also has a Marine Police Department. Mr. Griswold stated that of the beaches he researched, most do not allow boats of any kind, and all strictly prohibit alcohol. With the exception of Waterford (which allows leashed pets), no pets are allowed on the beach.

Mr. Plaut said that in Old Saybrook, all town beaches have lifeguards.

Russell Carlo reported that the beach at Charlestown, RI is administered by Parks and Rec. There are two lifeguards, and alcohol is strictly prohibited. Mr. Carlo stated that he will also look at Provincetown, MA; Hyannisport, Falmouth, and Cape Cod. Mr. Plaut will also research Lake George.

Frank Pappalardo reported that Guilford charges \$3-8 per person via a pedestrian gate. Residents may get a beach pass which costs \$30/ non-residents \$50.

Mr. Pappalardo also contacted Frederick Holth, Sr., of the Rogers Lake Authority. Lake Authorities are governed by CT State Statutes, due to the fact that many lakes abut multiple towns. Mr. Holth suggested that the Committee might look into public grant funds available for “degradation of the environment”. These monies could possibly be applied to pay for restrooms, etc.

In conclusion, Mr. Pappalardo stated that 2/3 of public beaches researched have access control whether at point of entry or via limited access roads.

Skip Sibley suggested we contact Don Bugbee, who has been in charge of the Sound View Parking Lot for many years, to get his perspective on traffic, access, etc. Frank Pappalardo will schedule a meeting.

Harry Plaut stated that we should invite Pavilion owner Frank Maratta to meet with us.

Skip Sibley reminded the Committee that its charge is come up with a plan, a framework for a future committee: “How will a Sound View Commission be framed, and how will it sustain itself for years to come?” This Committee needs to be a bit more global in its approach, and not get bogged down by details and specific situations.

Frank Pappalardo then said that he felt that it was important to hear the voices of all members of the business community, as they may have valuable insights from a different perspective. He asked that we discuss this further at a later date.

Assignment for next meeting: each member will choose several topics and compare them across the full spectrum of towns, to note areas of similarities and differences.

8.30 p: Discussion re: Trash cans on beach. Harry Plaut stated that he had broached this matter with the Miami Beach Association, and their response was that if there were no garbage cans on the beach, people would take their litter with them. Frank Pappalardo suggested that we might make a regulation stating that there will be trash cans at Sound View Beach (locations TBD) with regular pickup.

Mr. Pappalardo also stated that he would like to make a formal request to place immovable objects at the end of Swan Avenue.

Gail Fuller asked if there had been any progress regarding removal of road signs from the planter at the end of Hartford Ave. She said the VFW had written a letter to the Town regarding this. Mr. Pappalardo said he would readdress this issue.

8.37 New Business:

Frank Pappalardo presented a summary of his May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with Resident Trooper Chris Olsen and Old Lyme Police Officer Dominic Solari. Items discussed included a proposed traffic control pattern, beach closures, redeployment of police cars, beach patrols, random checks, location of tow trucks, enforcement of DEP regulations, etc. Trooper Olsen met each of these proposals with skepticism and maintained that the police are already doing a good job with traffic control, cooler prohibitions are unnecessary, and patrols as currently structured were adequate.

He did agree that the policy of police family/ friends parking in the Fire Well on Martino Road would cease. Trooper Olsen further stated that as residents bought houses at a public beach with bars they should learn to deal with the attendant problems. If members of the community wish to help, they should report problems immediately to the Police: 911 for emergencies, 434-1986 for non-emergencies.

9p: Ms. Fuller asked what our next step should be regarding the Police. Frank Pappalardo said that he expected Trooper Olsen would be present at our next meeting.

Mr. Plaut suggested that one of our Committee members should spend a day on duty with Trooper Olsen. Mr. Pappalardo stated that he was planning to do so.

9.10p: Mr. Plaut also stated that he was planning to be present at the Harbor Commission meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>, regarding Standard of Docks.

Harry Plaut asked about dogs on the beach, specifically he wondered if the canine officer could write tickets for people on the beach with dogs? It was agreed to discuss this further.

Mr. Pappalardo then asked if there was any further business. The date and time of the next meeting were discussed. The next meeting of this Commission will be at 7.30 pm, Monday, June 22, 2009 at the Shoreline Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 9.14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michaëlle Pearson  
Secretary