

Minutes of the Sound View Beach Commission Formation Committee
UNAPPROVED

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

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

Alternate: Russell Carlo (seated for David Griswold).

Also Present: Tim Griswold (Ex-officio), Skip Sibley (Ex-officio)

Absent: David Griswold

Call to Order: 7.45pm

Motion made by Gail Fuller, seconded by Russell Carlo to approve the meeting minutes of 6.22.09. Motion carried.

7.47p Public Comment:

John Boccaccio: stated that the walkway adjacent to his house has significant golf cart, motorcycle and moped traffic. Last year, in cooperation with the Selectmen and State Trooper Olsen, a large boulder was placed, which blocked approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the opening. Earlier this summer, the boulder was moved in the middle of the night, and Mr. Boccaccio said he often sees 12-15 year-olds driving mopeds along the walkway. Mr. Boccaccio would like to see greater regulation of golf carts and mopeds, particularly those with underage drivers. On the 19th of July Mr. Boccaccio said he witnessed heavy traffic, which made it very difficult for pedestrians to safely traverse the streets to the beach. On July 22nd ? he called State Police upon seeing a Miami Beach resident attempting to move the boulder with a pickup truck and chain, to create access for a golf cart. He also reported the traffic problems to Trooper Olsen, who assured Mr. Boccaccio that he was aware of the traffic issues, and that the boulder would be replaced the following day.

Mr. Plaut asked if Miami Beach requires residents to register their golf carts with the association. He stated that Old Colony does require registration for all motorized vehicles, making it easy to contact the owner in the case of possible violations.

Frank Pappalardo suggested placing a bollard-type obstacle similar to the one at the Swan Avenue walkway into Old Colony. Mr. Plaut stated that he

was responsible for the placement of the bollard on Swan, and that it has proven quite effective.

8.00 pm Selectman Skip Sibley joined the meeting.

8.01pm: Business:

Member Reports:

Frank Pappalardo presented a list outlining the potential duties, powers and responsibilities of what he tentatively termed a “Sound View Management Authority”. This entity would:

- Receive the concerns of Sound View, review their validity, establish corrective actions as needed and monitor.
- Understand existing Town and State regulations and interface directly with the necessary department / agency for compliance
- Establish / implement communication protocols as necessary, including but not limited to: zoning enforcement, public safety, environmental issues, beach (sand and water) management, health and sanitation.
- Prepare “Standard Operating Procedure” (SOP) in conjunction with town departments (what gets done / when - on a yearly basis)
- Prepare / apply as necessary for State and Federal grants / funding
- Interface directly with adjacent beach associations (problem resolution)
- Investigate / establish strategic partnerships with private enterprise and/or non-profits for Sound View community development
- Make recommendations for improvement directly to Selectmen regarding items which may need to be addressed, such as policy, rules, or regulations.
- Prepare and implement rules and regulations which do not need to be established as ordinances.
- Prepare / implement a long term strategic plan for the area preserving its historical attributes while allowing growth within the town of Old Lyme

Gail Fuller said that she had looked at various towns to determine what the best form might be, including Branford which has a Commission, which is able to enforce beach rules and regulations.

Mr. Plaut voiced his concern that if an actual commission is established for Sound View, then other beaches will want the same. Mr. Pappalardo explained the difference, stating that while the other beaches are private associations, Sound View is a public beach, administered by the Town of Old Lyme, and further, that the Federation of beaches is strictly a volunteer organization with no jurisdictional authority over Sound View Beach.

Further discussion ensued as to whether this body should be a Commission, Committee, Authority, etc.

Gail Fuller stated that whatever the entity, it must have some power, rather than zero power, which has been the problem with the Beach Improvement Committee. The question is where does the line fall with regard to issues such as Zoning, Public Safety, etc.

First Selectman Tim Griswold suggested that we take a look at the Ethics Commission Ordinance as a model of how a Commission may be established. Selectman Skip Sibley said we should also look at the Flood and Erosion Control Commission.

Review discussed materials and will revisit at next meeting.

9.18 pm Follow-up on this Committee's Letter to the Town containing Concerns and Recommendations for Sound View Beach. First Selectman Griswold said that the list hadn't yet been fully disseminated throughout Town Hall, but would be soon.

9.30 pm New Business:
Sound View Resident Concerns

Gail Fuller expressed concern that the swim lines have been taken down and/or significantly moved, and jet skis have been operating in the swim areas, creating a hazard. Mr. Plaut said that he would take a look at the swim lines tomorrow morning.

Russ Carlo asked about blight, and whether we could include the drafting of a blight ordinance. Ms. Pearson said she would do some research and look into writing one.

Frank Pappalardo said he'd received several emails from residents regarding traffic and the local police being unresponsive when residents brought this to

their attention. Another issue is that the police number listed on the Town site for routine local police calls goes unanswered. The correct number should be 434 1986. Selectman Sibley said he's look into changing the information of the Town website.

Ms. Pearson said that she wished to call Sound View residents' attention to the three Cell Towers proposed to be erected along Rte. 156. There will be test balloons and a public meeting (date TBA) for residents to voice their questions and concerns, though final decision on the towers rests with the Connecticut Siting Council.

Frank Pappalardo also said that he'd received a copy of the letter the Selectmen sent to Michelle Zito thanking her for her service. Ms. Zito's resignation opens up a spot for an alternate, which may be applied for through the Town website.

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, August 24, 2009 at the Shoreline Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 9.45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Pearson, Secretary