

Minutes of the Sound View Beach Commission Formation Committee
CORRECTED, APPROVED

Meeting held: September 28, 2009 at Shoreline Community Center, 7.30pm

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

Alternate: Joann Lishing

Also Present: Skip Sibley (Ex-officio), Bonnie Reemsnyder (Ex-officio)

Absent: Harry Plaut, Russell Carlo

Public Comment:

Bill Folland

Shirley Annunziata

Call to Order: 7.47pm

Frank Pappalardo welcomed Joann Lishing as our new alternate, replacing Michelle Zito, who had resigned. Michaelle Pearson moved to seat Ms. Lishing as a voting member. Gail Fuller seconded. Motion passed.

Ms. Lishing made a motion to approve minutes of the last meeting, Ms. Fuller seconded. Motion carried.

7.53 pm Selectman Skip Sibley joined the meeting.

7.54 pm

Recommendations for Improvement.

Frank Pappalardo first presented this Committee's "Recommendations for Improvement" list at the BOS meeting on July 6, 2009. Mr. Pappalardo reported that he had a "follow-up" presentation regarding a proposed Commission at the last BOS meeting, and at that meeting Paul Rowan, Vice President of the Federation of Beaches was present, and asked Mr. Pappalardo to clarify the role of a Sound View Beach Authority. Mr. Pappalardo explained that Sound View is a public beach with town roads, owned by the Town of Old Lyme, and as such, it is different than all other beach areas in town, which have private roads and restricted access. Private beach associations would not be controlled by a Sound View Beach authority. Mr. Pappalardo reported that Mr. Rowan thanked him for the clarification and expressed support for the ongoing work of this committee.

8.08 pm

Discussion ensued regarding items from the July 6th list which were not addressed, including but not limited to: jet skis and other watercraft tied to the swim lines, vehicles on the beach, including the Pavilion boat tractor; lack of bus ordinance enforcement, lack of additional trash receptacles, lack of landscaping at Town lot. There have also been numerous complaints from residents regarding the use of the Police ATV during daylight hours and peak beach times.

Based on this discussion, Gail Fuller moved that this Committee submit a response to Board of Selectmen at the next BOS meeting. Joann Lishing seconded. Motion passed.

8.30 pm Commission Objectives

Continuation of discussion from previous meeting regarding the Charge of this Committee to determine what form a Sound View regulatory body might take.

Frank Pappalardo presented a draft version of a document that would form a Sound View Commission, based on the directives stated in the BOS motion passed on November 3, 2008. Topics under review include a declaration of need, definition of applicability, and scope of responsibilities; along with such procedural details as the Commission's composition, terms of appointment, quorum rules, etc. Once finalized, any document would go through the BOS legal review. This Committee would just be responsible for drafting the outline.

8.43 pm David Griswold joined meeting

Public Comment: Bill Folland had several comments regarding details of Mr. Pappalardo's draft document. He strongly suggested that this Committee look into possibly forming a "Municipal Special Service District" that would encompass Sound View. Mr. Pappalardo said he found the idea interesting and would research it for our next meeting.

9.05 pm Selectman Sibley said that the Committee should focus on finding an ordinance establishing a Commission. There might be something similar

in East Haven, or Stonington. He also urged us to speak with Linda Krause of CRERPA, who was very helpful in forming the SVDD.

Selectman Sibley stated that he felt that there was a need for something more than a committee, and that there should be an empowerment of the group or commission, that it's important to design something that will work, and will have some power. A possible example might be similar to the way Parks and Rec manage the day-to-day maintenance of the town fields. They have some authority, but can't authorize large requisitions, or make major decisions without input from the BOS. A committee with no authority would be worthless, so we need to work on defining and carving out the scope of authority for a commission or management authority.

Selectwoman Bonnie Reemsnyder said that we should be mindful of avoiding becoming a "complaint board", and to ensure that any Commission or Authority should be charged with seeking common solutions to improve the area.

Gail Fuller mentioned some language from her notes on Branford to the effect that "The authority shall have power to regulate, manage and control said areas as determined by the BOS."

This prompted a comment by Bill Folland who cautioned us that Branford is a Chartered town, not statutory, as is Old Lyme, so Branford's laws may not apply.

Selectman Sibley clarified this point, stating that as long as there's nothing conflicting on state books, a town can create what it needs.

Selectwoman Reemsnyder spoke of the importance of legal review, and urged this Committee to think about determining when an ordinance might be ready for review, and to be aware that we aren't responsible for drafting a final version—that will come only after legal review.

Selectman Sibley added that now is the time for us to revisit the ordinances we researched and to seek out the underlying language that grants authority to the board or commission in question.

Assignment for next meeting: Seek out ordinances from towns that establish similar commissions and state their powers.

9.36 pm Mr. Pappalardo then asked if there was any further business. Ms. Pearson stated that she had missed the last meeting of this Committee, when the Haverland Report was discussed, and wanted to mention that in reviewing Haverland, she had noticed a strong recommendation that the C-10 zone on Shore Road be included as part of the SVDD. She asked about the SVDD process and whether there were any plans to move forward with expanding it. Selectwoman Reemsnyder stated that the SVDD was supposed to have been revisited at a future date, and that might possibly be an item that would come under the purview of the proposed Commission or Authority.

9.40 pm The date and time of the next meeting were discussed. The next meeting of this Commission will be at 7.30 pm, Monday, October 26, 2009 at the Shoreline Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 9.45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Pearson, Secretary