

**Minutes of the Sound View Beach Commission Formation Committee
UNAPPROVED**

Meeting held: April 27, 2009 at Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall, 7.30pm

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

Alternate: Russell Carlo (seated for Harry Plaut)

Also Present: First Selectman Timothy C. Griswold, Ex-Officio; Selectman Skip Sibley, Ex-Officio; Selectwoman Bonnie Reemsnyder, Ex-Officio.

Absent: Harry Plaut (Regular Member), Michelle Zito (Alternate)

Call to Order: 7.45pm

Gail Fuller motioned to seat Russ Carlo for the absent Harry Plaut. Motion seconded by Michaelle Pearson. Motion carried.

No Public Comment.

Motion made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Mr. Carlo to approve the meeting minutes of 3.23.09. Motion carried.

7.55 pm **Business:**

Member Reports/ Assignments:

8pm David Griswold joined the meeting.

Member Reports/ Town contacts and research:

Mr. Pappalardo said he'd contacted the towns of East Haven, Norwalk, Groton and Charlestown, RI. Mr. Pappalardo spoke with Guilford Parks and Rec director Rick Maynard, and noted that enforcement there was quite strict, including a no smoking policy on the beach and reserved right to close beaches due to weather, overcrowding or other conditions at the Town's discretion. The list of regulations pertaining to the beach area were culled from various Town Ordinances (Zoning, Parks and Rec, Public Safety, Law Enforcement, etc) and combined together as a set of rules for beach enforcement.

Mr. Pappalardo also stated that East Haven is currently in the process of establishing a commission to address issues pertaining to their public beach.

Ms. Fuller presented information from West Haven, New Haven, Stamford, East Lyme and Branford. Highlights included the fact that the majority of these communities have only one access road into the beach area, so they are able to control who enters and exits at any given time. Ms. Fuller spoke to Al Russell, of Branford's Beach Commission, which is separate from Parks and Rec. It is a committee of five people with a \$75K annual budget. Parking lot attendant/security person leaves post once per hour to check that beach rules are not being broken. Highlights included the fact that the majority of these communities have only one access road into the area, so they are able to control who enters and exits at any given time. Ms. Fuller further reported that New Haven has a Parks Commission, which includes the beach area. Alcohol is allowed on their public beach, but it was noted that as long as there is a visible police presence on the beach, there are no problems. Stamford has 55 parks and "parklets". Cole Beach is their main public beach, and they do have quality of life issues due to inadequate police presence.

David Griswold stated that he has contacted officials in the towns of Darien, Greenwich, Old Saybrook and Waterford, and expects to hear back from them soon. Mr. Griswold said he felt that the latter two communities might provide the best information for our purposes.

Ms. Pearson presented information from New London, Bridgeport, Stonington and Westbrook. Of these, only Westbrook and Stonington appeared to have separate commissions for the beach and/ or waterfront areas. More information forthcoming.

Ms. Pearson stated that in New London, it seems that most beach issues are dealt with by the City Council, though Ocean Beach has its own Board, and there also exists a "Beautification Committee". Issues may be brought to Parks and Rec and/or the Public Safety Commission, both of which are considered arms of the City Council. Ms. Pearson noted that beach regulations in all of these Towns are quite strict, with the Town reserving the right to close the beach at any time due to overcrowding, weather or other conditions. In New London, seasonal parking fees are \$50 for residents and \$85 for non-residents. There is also a fee of \$5/daily for pedestrians.

Selectwoman Reemsnyder suggested that research tools such as Google Earth might be helpful in determining which beaches might be most similar to Sound View.

First Selectman Griswold stated that he had information regarding beach commissions in the following towns: Stratford's Short Beach Parking Commission, Madison's Beach and Rec commission, Darien's Weed Beach Park Committee.

Frank Pappalardo suggested that Commission members highlight all similarities and recurring information. David Griswold asked if any of these beaches had bars on the beach, and it was agreed that this was a major point to consider, as noise and alcohol-related issues are central to the problems at Sound View, and the Commission should seek out other Towns with similar issues, if any. First Selectman Griswold suggested that a chart be made of all similar beach regulations, so they could be compared and viewed at a glance. Commission members agreed to read through the lists of regulations and cull a list of such similar items which may best pertain to Sound View.

Russ Carlo stated that he and Michelle Zito would research some beaches not on the list, e.g., Old Orchard Beach, Hampton Beach, Charlestown, RI.

Selectman Sibley suggested contacting Fred Holth and the Rogers Lake Authority regarding any pertinent rules or enforcement suggestions. Mr. Pappalardo agreed to get in touch with them.

Ms. Fuller stated that there were two separate areas of interest to look at: the quality of life issues/ enforcement and the establishment and protocol for governing boards, such as committees, etc.

8.50 pm **Review and Update "Concerns/Recommendations" list**

Mr. Pappalardo collated the lists from last meeting, for presentation to the Selectmen. As this is an ongoing process, emphasis was placed on issues that could be addressed in the short-term.

Issues of concern include:

- Parking (continued enforcement; new regulations, including Bus Ordinance)
 - Illegal Parking Lots/ Legal Parking Lots: Regulation and enforcement
 - On-street parking
 - Tow Trucks: To be staged at the last spaces at the end of either side of Hartford Avenue.
 - Town Parking Lot: Ticket system to be in effect. Date TBA?

- Traffic/ Congestion
 - Enforcement (including street closures and DUI monitoring)
 - Revise traffic patterns to relieve congestion
 - Street closures at peak times
 - Meet with Police to explore possibility of one-way streets
- Increased police patrols/ extended hours

Beach:

- Keeping the beach clean (amount/ placement of trash cans, beach cleaning)
- Boat Landing/ Swim Lines (water taxis, PWCs, Pavilion's dock)
- Improved signage on street and at the beach entrances
- Driving on the beach (including ATVs, golf carts and tractors)
- No dogs on the beach (especially unleashed)
- Alcohol on the beach, and related issues (coolers, litter)
- Toilet facilities
- Noise (monitoring and enforcement)
- Drag racing/ drunk driving after bars close
- Loitering/ underage drinking near convenience stores and on Hartford Ave. and after-hours loitering on the beach.
- Beach Patrol Officer for peak times
- Aesthetic issues: planter at Hartford Ave.; replace planter at Swan Ave; landscaping around Town Parking Lot.

9.45pm Update Bus Prohibition Ordinance

Tim Griswold stated that the Bus Ordinance was slated for presentation at the May 18th Town Meeting

10 pm **New Business:**

Pavilion Zoning application:

Discussion re: The Pavilion's zoning application for a Patio Permit to serve liquor outdoors. A motion was made by Mr. Pappalardo and seconded by Mr. Carlo, that this Commission draft a statement of disapproval for said permit based on the quality of life issues addressed in our ongoing report. David Griswold expressed doubt that such a collective statement would be appropriate under the Commission's mandate. The motion was withdrawn. Selectwoman Reemsnyder suggested that the individual members may wish to express their personal opinions to Zoning in this matter, rather than presenting them as the work of this Commission.

10.30 pm **Other Business:**

Mr. Pappalardo then asked if there was any further business.
The date and time of the next meeting were discussed. Due to the Memorial Day holiday, it was agreed that the next meeting of this Commission will take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, May 27, 2009. Place TBD.
Meeting adjourned at 10.40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michaelle Pearson
Secretary