

Town of Old Lyme Water Pollution Control Authority
Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING held January 10th, 2023
Virtual via WebEx and In-Person at the Memorial Town Hall, 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme CT

In attendance

In person: Chairman Rich Prendergast, Steve Cinami, Joe Carpentino, Dimitri Tolchinski

Via WebEx: Randy Nixon, Andrea Lombard

Absent: Frank Chan, Corey Bullock, Rob McCarthy

Also in attendance: 2 members of the public (via WebEx) 1 member in person

Call to Order

Chairman Prendergast called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – November 15th, 2022

Motion by D. Tolchinski to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2022, meeting. Second by S. Cinami. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of WPCA Officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Treasurer

Motion by D. Tolchinski to elect Rich Prendergast as Chairman. Second by S. Cinami. No other nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Prendergast noted that Frank Chan has resigned from the WPCA and thanked him for his years of service. Motion by A. Lombard to elect Steve Cinami as Vice Chair. Second by J. Carpentino. No other nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by S. Cinami to nominate Andrea Lombard as Treasurer. Second by R. Nixon. No other nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

New officers start their term at the next meeting. Chairman Prendergast noted that Joe Carpentino is also resigning from the WPCA and thanked him for his expertise.

Budget Update and Expenses

S. Cinami reported no new invoices since the November 15 meeting. He will follow up with the Finance Director on one legal bill. Together with Chairman Prendergast, he prepared the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Still have some carryover from last year. He reviewed each category and noted if the amount was staying the same or being reduced.

Business

- Sound View Sewer and Misc Area B Project

Clean Water funding application status

Chairman Prendergast noted that he made a request to the State for next steps, and updated application to 2023 date. Have been discussions about getting money back from original sewer review. Obstacle is the State processing our application. Then we can have our engineering firm continue the design phase. Hope that prices will come down, but not realistic to expect they

will. Working with First Selectman, waiting on feedback from the State, then will go forward. D. Tolchinski stated that we must finish the design phase. If we wait, the price could be higher. S. Cinami agrees with D. Tolchinski regarding high prices, and if they don't come down, the State will have to do something to adjust. We are not the only ones in this situation. R. Nixon asked if we have approved an 80% design. The 30-60-90 has not been submitted to the State yet. Chairman Prendergast reiterated that we will still have an opportunity to review the design plans.

Status of additional funding / grant applications

Chairman Prendergast signed a memo (after consulting with First Selectman Griswold) for the ARPA Community Initiative grant. If we need to amend the contract, will talk to First Selectman, but will continue with spirit of the grant, to reduce the cost of the sewer project for all Old Lyme residents. D. Tolchinski asked how the money will affect the private beach associations (PBAs.) General thought is that there are expenses we share, and we have a cost sharing agreement (CSA.)

Chairman Prendergast attended a meeting with the PBAs (not public, no requirement for minutes). Outlined a series of events for the next year that are critical. Their funding agreements are being extended this month because the project isn't complete. They expect us to have design for bid by May and will use that info to see if bids are up or down. They are planning to go out to bid again, no date set. Chairman Prendergast is considering asking for deadline of July 1 for additional funding. Thinking about asking DEEP for more money or shelve the project for a few years. Deadline of September to resolve. State got an influx of money, but DEEP has said we don't qualify. We need more money to make the project more economically feasible. Draft development letter just received today. S. Cinami asked if we are a party to that letter? Chairman Prendergast said draft letter mentions Town of Old Lyme and asked us to sign off on it. State has recently and repeatedly said we are showing due diligence, no enforcement or fines.

Review of Proposed Sewer Ordinance public comments

Nothing to review tonight. Have been requested from the State to remove the Sound View Sewer District and Hawk's Nest Sewer District. Will have legal review one more time, then will hand off to Selectman's Office to schedule a meeting later in the year. Sewer ordinance doesn't mean you have sewers. S. Cinami asked if there a time limit between public comment and approving the ordinance. Chairman Prendergast noted that we closed the public comment period.

Correspondence

One item from Rocco Todaro regarding an article/opinion piece about Guilford using DNA testing to see if waste was animal or human. Chairman Prendergast asked DEEP if there is funding for this, answer is no.

New Business

None.

Public comment

Mary Daley, Portland Ave: Agrees with Steve - any property owner who has had work done can attest to increase of cost of material, cost of electricity up 40%, many homeowners tightening their belts. If State reexamines funding, areas that have proven pollution, agree that there needs to be a definitive ending. Some would like to move forward but can't without knowing status of sewers. Applaud efforts to bring this to an end. Hope for final answer in September.

Resident, Browns Lane: Been in Town for 30 years, served on many boards and commissions. Do you monitor lakes and rivers for pollution? Do you have anything to do with stormwater permits? If not, who does?

Chairman Prendergast responds: Agrees price of everything has gone up. Agrees we can try to push for an end date or action, whether we continue forward or shelve this. Admin/consent orders don't allow us to just say no. LLHD and the State monitor lakes and rivers. Won't say they go to every lake and river. LLHD monitors swimming areas. Stormwater permits, PBAs manage and can request funding. Town can do as well, request funding and permits. Stormwater is separate from the sewer project because funding is different.

Adjournment

Motion by S. Cinami to adjourn. Second by R. Nixon. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Datum, WPCA Clerk