

Old Lyme Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes 06 February 2023 at 5:30 PM

The meeting was hybrid - held in person in the Meeting Hall of the Memorial Town Hall with a phone-in option. In attendance: (in person) First Selectman Timothy Griswold, Selectman Matthew Ward and Selectwoman Martha Shoemaker.

First Selectman Griswold called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: 3 January 22 (Reg.) and 12 January (Spec.) 2023, 13 January (Spec.) 2023 and 30 January (Spec.) 2023.

Selectwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the 3 January 2023 regular meeting minutes and Selectwoman Selectman Ward seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The motion passed.

Selectman Ward made a motion to approve the 12 January 2023 special meeting minutes and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion: None The motion passed.

Selectwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the 13 January 2023 special meeting minutes and Selectwoman Selectman Ward seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The motion passed.

Selectman Ward made a motion to approve the 30 January 2023 special meeting minutes and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion: None The motion passed.

Public Comment:

Dennis Meluzzo, 7 Portland Ave. The Old Lyme Shores Board of Governors mailed a letter to the Board of Selectmen, the O.L. WPCA and the two private beaches on 1 February 2023 asserting their position that the sewer project has become too expensive and presently does not make sense. They believe the cost is too expensive and test results show there is no pollution. They ask that property owners be allowed to update their septic systems and/or pursue alternate designs. He estimates the Town/beach associations have already \$2,000,000.

Mary Daly, Portland Ave. Mary is concerned about home prices in the area. Realtors are alerting buyers to a possible large sewer assessment. She supports a green solution. She read excerpts from emails between Sandy Garvin and the DEEP.

Brian Cornell, Portland Ave. Extension resides in Area B, the north side of Rte. 156, a half mile from the Sound. He believes this area was included in the project to spread out the costs of the project. The area does not need or want a sewer system.

Carolynn Miranda, Biscayne Blvd. thanked Mary and Dennis for their efforts. She is appalled that the Town is not getting involved and she does not want sewers.

Kathy Lacey, 76 Hartford Ave. thanked Mary and Dennis for their research and advocacy. She concurs with their comments.

Sally Weitowide, Miami Ave. Extension also resides in Area B where there are only 10 -ear round homes. The other residences are seasonal cottages. She opposes the sewer project.

- 1. Communications:** First Selectman Griswold received communication from Joanne Di Camillo, Chair of the Tree Commission, who shared concerns about the Town's tree population. She was present at the meeting and talked about plans for the coming years. The long-term goal is to plant more trees and come up with an efficient watering process. The Tree Commission will begin a tree inventory this year. Pressing concerns are the small number of trees planted by the Town and how to water trees during a drought. She proposed purchasing \$350.00 worth of seedlings to be donated to town residents to encourage tree planting. Selectwoman Shoemaker made a motion to recommend that the Tree Commission use up to \$450.00 from carryover or the agency's miscellaneous line in the budget to purchase the seedlings that can be donated to residents. Selectwoman Selectman Ward seconded the motion and the motion was approved. First Selectman Griswold suggested advertising the program to have greater participation.

2. **Appointments:**

Selectwoman Shoemaker said that the current ordinance does not use the title Animal Control Officer but. Instead uses the title Dog Warden. First Selectman Griswold said it is difficult to amend an ordinance. The issue will be looked into.

Staff Appointments

Animal Control Officer - Selectman Ward moved and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Lynn Philemon to a 2-year Regular term ending 31 January 2025. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

Assessor - Selectwoman Shoemaker moved and Selectman Ward seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Melinda Kronfeld to a 2-year Regular term expiring on 31 January 2025. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

Other Appointments

Economic Development Commission - Selectwoman Shoemaker moved and Selectman Ward seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Teri Lewis to fill a vacant 5-year Regular term ending 31 January 2026. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

Eastern Regional Tourism District Board of Directors - Selectman Ward moved and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Wendy Russell to a 3-year Regular term ending 31 January 2026. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

Harbor Management - Selectwoman Shoemaker moved and Selectman Ward seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Emerson Colwell to fill a vacant 5-year Regular term ending 31 January 2025. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

Inland Wetlands Commission - Selectman Ward moved and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded a motion to approve the appointments of Todd Crolius and Peter Friel to Alternate 3-year terms ending 31 January 2026. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

Open Space Commission – First Selectman Griswold said the changes below will keep the party affiliations in balance. Only a maximum of 5 Regular members from the same party are permitted on the Open Space Commission.

Selectwoman Shoemaker moved and Selectman Ward seconded a motion to approve the appointments of Fred Behringer, Greg Futoma and Michael Aurelia to 3-year Regular terms ending on 31 January 2026. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

Selectman Ward moved and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Evan Griswold to fill the vacant Alternate 3-year term ending 31 January 2025. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

Tree Commission - Selectman Ward moved and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded a motion to approve the appointment of Peter Edmondson to fill the vacant Alternate 1-year term ending 31 January 2024. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

Zoning Commission – First Selectman Griswold said he spoke with Sherry Johnston about her attendance - she was absent from 3 meetings, one due to illness. She would like to continue.

Selectwoman Shoemaker moved and Selectman Ward seconded a motion to approve the appointments of Sloan Danenhower, Michael Barnes and Joseph (Gill) Soucie to 3-year Alternate terms ending on 1 February 2024. Discussion: None. The motion was approved. First Selectman Griswold still supports Sherry Johnston.

Old Business:

a. Project Updates

i. Halls Rd. Improvement – No Report

First Selectman Griswold said the Zoning Commission is still considering the Overlay proposal.

ii. Sound View Sidewalks – No Report

Selectman Ward said the Estuary Transit bus drivers are having trouble making the turns from Rte. 156 into the Bus Stop, so they are not pulling into the Bus Stop. First Selectman Griswold will look into the complaint.

iii. Sound View Sewers: Update

First Selectman Griswold said Senator Marks is submitting bill to obtain more funding.

iv. Senior Ctr. Expansion: Update

Jerri Baker said the Senior Center Building Committee is working with Point One Architects to decrease the current cost estimate. They hope to go out to bid in July 2023 and break ground in October or November. The Center will close during the year-long construction period and they are working on contingency plans. Wetlands and Zoning approvals were received along with the septic system approval from Ledge Light. Selectman Ward asked about fund raising and Jerri said efforts are being made and she expects great results. Selectwoman Shoemaker said she would forward information from a grant workshop she attended.

v. Ferry Road Sidewalk: No Report

First Selectman Griswold said there will be a meeting to finalize the plan and to address the fence issue at 11 Ferry Road. Once resolved, the project can go out to bid. Selectwoman Shoemaker asked that she receive a copy of the bids when they are available.

vi. Swan Brook Outlet: Update

First Selectman Griswold said the blockage in the western pipe was removed and completed in one day. No major impediments were found. Next step is to rebuild the wood crib. He suggested an additional inspection of the pipe via a camera be performed to check for broken pipe seams. Selectwoman Shoemaker motioned to approve the \$1,300 charge to inspect the pipe with a camera. Selectman Ward seconded the motion and the motion was approved. First Selectman Griswold will speak with finance to determine if there are any other requirements. Selectwoman Shoemaker said Hawks Nest residents are concerned about the cracked sidewalk that was caused by the heavy machinery and reminded the Selectmen that these funds must come out of the town budget; not ARPA funds.

b. Tantummaheag Landing: Update

First Selectman Griswold said the Town Attorney will be meeting with Mr. Frampton again. Selectwoman Shoemaker asked when we could expect to hear the outcome of said meeting and First Selectman Griswold said by the end of February.

c. 36-1 Buttonball Rd.: Update

First Selectman Griswold said that the Harbor Management Commission has received its report that proposes a 100 foot dock across the marsh with two 10' x 10' observation platforms (one at either end) that would connect to a sloping 40' ramp (perpendicular to the dock) that would lead to a 10' x 10' floating dock in Horse Neck Creek. Michael Barns said the estimated cost of the dock might be about \$60,000. He also said there should be adequate water in the Creek at mean low water for small boat use. Other improvements include a path to the dock from the parking area, a vehicle drop-off circle and fencing to protect the marsh. Next step is for Harbor Management and Open Space to submit their final recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

d. Shoreline Gateway Committee: Update

Selectwoman Shoemaker said the Committee invited First Selectman Griswold and Chairs of Planning and Zoning attend the 16 February 2023 meeting to discuss various aspects of how to improve this area.

e. Annual Town Meeting Recap

First Selectman Griswold said Edie Twining was named Citizen of the Year for 2022 and Michele Dickey was honored for her service as editor of the Towns Annual Report for 30 years. The Town report was accepted and the Information Technology team gave a brief preview of the Town's upgraded website.

4. New Business:

a. Transfer Station Fee Schedule – Modifications

Selectwoman Ward motioned to amend the Transfer Station Fee Schedule to include the following:

1. The \$7.00 automobile and small truck tire disposal fee is raised from \$7.00 to \$10.00.
2. Only 20-pound propane tanks will be accepted.
3. The length of tree branches and logs being disposed is limited to 6 feet.

Select man Ward seconded the motion. There was a discussion about how one might dispose of the smaller propane tanks. First Selectman Griswold will research. The motion was approved.

b. CT Computing (the Town contractor) will begin an upgrade project on Friday 17 Feb at Noon.

First Selectman Griswold said the phones and computers at Town Hall will not be operating as of noon on Friday through that weekend. The shutdown will be communicated on the website.

c. Regional School District 18 – Invention Convention

Unfortunately, the members of the Board of Selectmen were unable to attend this successful event.

5. Other Business:

First Selectman Griswold said Rick Prendergast, Chair of the WPCVA, is asking that the Board of Selectmen execute a Resolution for a contract to be renewed with DEEP. Selectwoman Shoemaker and Selectman Ward asked for more information prior to approval. Mr. Prendergast will be invited to an upcoming Selectmen’s meeting.

Selectman Ward sends condolences to Bobby Swaney’s family upon his passing.

Selectwoman Shoemaker acknowledged the sudden passing of Jody Nazarchyk, a Waterford Selectwoman. She will be dearly missed.

Selectwoman Shoemaker asked First Selectman Griswold to respond to a Town Facebook comment.

Selectwoman Shoemaker has signed a CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM) civility pledge and she requested the Selectmen also sign the pledge.

Selectwoman Shoemaker recently read through the audit results and would like to see a process put in place between Finance and the Office of the Tax Collector.

Selectwoman Shoemaker asked how the budgeting process works. We owe it to taxpayers to be more on top of the budget process. Selectman Ward agrees and feels the Selectmen should start early in November and recommend a preliminary budget for the Board of Finance.

6. Adjournment: Selectman Ward made a motion and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The motion passed.

Minutes prepared by: Suzanne McAuliffe