

Town of Old Lyme Water Pollution Control Authority
Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING of February 15th, 2023

Hybrid meeting held in person at the Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall Mezzanine room and virtually via WebEx.

In attendance:

In person: Chairman Rich Prendergast, Vice Chair Steve Cinami, Steve Urbowicz, Dimitri Tolchinski

On WebEx: Treasurer Andrea Lombard, Randy Nixon, Corey Bullock,

Absent: Rob McCarthy

Also in attendance: 4 members of the public via WebEx and 2 inperson.

Call to Order

Chairman Prendergast called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – January 10th, 2023

Motion by Steve to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting. Second by D. Tolchinski. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Update and Expenses

WWM Project Consultant current year budget of \$278.21 is being moved down to carryover of same line item. Will be in encumbered column. Have not touched any 2023 budget yet.

Business

- Sound View Sewer and Misc Area B Project –

Clean Water funding application status. Have had email exchanges with DEEP. In past received \$91,609.65 which is part of original evaluation of sewer project. WPCA submitted amendment for additional adjustments to plan and evaluation of neighborhood commonly referred to as Hawk's Nest. Will either receive 55% grant funds, or 25% grant for design and construction. As of today Chairman received list of items DEEP would like us to review before submitting application. Chairman Prendergast wants to hear from WPCA members regarding what they would like to look at. Steve Cinami would like a printed set of plans as would Randy Nixon. WPCA members can download electronic copies to their computer. Also have paper copies of plans – approximately 2000 pages. 4 WPCA members want paper copies of the plans but are able to share the copies. Chairman Prendergast will get copies and they will be stored in the Selectman's Office so WPCA members can check them in and out. Plans are confidential while going through the process. Chairman Prendergast will go through email this weekend to understand the updated form for submitting to DEEP. Question of when the application is due? Chairman Prendergast states there is not a deadline but the sooner the better. Once it is submitted a copy can be provided.

Status of additional funding / grant applications. Democratic Senator and Republican representative are both proposing separate bills to get WPCA additional funding. Going through Dept of Health vs DEEP but DEEP is also developing possible additional funding. Still unsure if additional funding will be secured. Old Lyme Shores has produced a letter that their intention is to exit the sewer project and go out on their own. They have a consent order they signed in 2012 stating they would install sewers. If they exit the project the shared part of the project will increase for the remaining members. Additional grant funding number will have to be adjusted if they are allowed to leave the project. In 2015 Old Lyme told DEEP they were not going to do the sewer system and within days Old Lyme received a letter from DEEP stating that they still had to do the sewer system. Chairman Prendergast believes that in the next 45 days we will have a better understanding of what will be submitted for funding and have decisions this summer around how we will go forward.

Question: When was the letter from Old Lyme Shores issues? February 1st.

Question from Steve: Do inter-municipal agreements allow members to leave the agreement and not make the agreement null and void - is that correct? A. They have a termination when they leave but they do not get any money back.

Question: What is the criteria determined to determine if this is economically feasible?

Chairman Prendergast believes it is 12.5% of value of property (land and house). If above that on average it is considered not economically feasible.

Review of Proposed Sewer Ordinance public comments. Chairman Prendergast sent to WPCA members and there are two minor changes recommended by DEEP and attorney. Having a sewer ordinance does not mean you have to have sewers, but it does mean you have guidance on how to handle sewers. Will discuss in Old Business to determine if it should be brought to town meeting in the summer for a vote.

Correspondence

Remembrance of Sandy Cameron Garvin by Chairman Prendergast.

Meeting scheduled with DEEP and Old Lyme Shores which the town will attend but it is not a public meeting. Should happen in March.

Letter to Alliance from Old Lyme Shores stating they are going to do something different.

Two house bond requests for additional funding – Democrat Senator and Republican Representative. Filling out description of project, status of project, funding amounts, timing, job creation.

New Business

Randy Nixon – Would like to welcome new member Steve Urbowicz on behalf of the rest of the WPCA.

Steve Urbowicz – has a fair understanding of processes that need to happen. Hoping to be constructive and have some good input.

Public comment

Mary Daley: read open letter from Old Lyme Shores. She has concerns about the mention of major revisions to cost sharing agreement. They have asked how the 29.75 came to be and would applaud any opening of this issue. There should be one common EDU factor should be based on assessments and thinks SoundView numbers for the project should go down and should not go up.

Dennis Melluzzo, Portland Ave: Sandy Garvin Cameron is the correct name. She sent email on 12/27/22 listing a litany of things that Old Lyme WPCA and DEEP have not answered. Received a reply but passed away two weeks later. Sandy knew what was right and what was wrong as does her family. Hopes in Sandy's legacy sewers do not happen in the beach area. No minutes of the January 10th minutes have been available on the website. Asked for an email to be sent to him but has not received it. As far as Old Lyme Shores – it is not just Old Lyme Shores. The absolute maximum they will affix is almost \$82000/house. What you are not hearing is Miami Beach and he will guarantee that they have had to pay an average of \$175/month is more of a liability for them now. Spend the 9.44 million on upgrading septic systems is what they need to do. If private beach associations want a sewer let them put the pump house in their property and forget Sound View.

Adjournment

Motion by S. Cinami to adjourn the meeting. Second by D.Tolchinski . Discussion: None. Motion carried by majority. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Correia, WPCA Clerk