

36-1 Buttonball Committee Minutes
Old Lyme Town Hall Meeting Room
Thursday February 23, 2023 @8:15 a.m.

Present: Ex-officio member Selectman Matthew Ward and Selectwoman Martha Shoemaker. Committee members, Michael Barnes, Fred Behringer (Chairman), John Mesham, Michael Aurelia, Jared Bombaci and Sloan Danenhower

Absent: First Selectman Tim Griswold

Call to order by Chairman Fred Behringer at 8:18 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2023.

Sloan Danenhower motioned to approve the February 6, 2023 minutes. Jared Bombaci seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Harbor Management Recommendations

Fred Behringer asked members to comment on the HM proposal and said he received electronic files for distribution. He asked HM to publish an updated version of the trail/path placement.

John Mesham said the plan is viable and he approves moving forward.

Mike Aurelia asked for a field trip and tidal boundary clarification.

Fred Behringer asked for an objective list of cost and life span of the dock. Michael Barnes said Hm had spent \$8,000 to date and expects the dock to last 30 to 40 years.

Options for Future Management

Fred Behringer supports the shared management option.

Michael Barnes deferred to Terry Lewis in the audience who advocates for HM oversight only. HM oversees all other water access town parcels independently.

Jared Bombaci focused on the size of the upland property at 1 acre. Does OS currently manage such a small area. Greg Futoma said yes, Lords Meadow parking lot that accesses a larger OS property.

John Mesham commented OS assisting with funding and development could be helpful. He suggested avoiding delineating responsibility at mean tide mark.

Mike Aurelia favors a team effort. OS has experience with signage, fund raising and upland issues i.e. parking and trails.

Sloan Danenhower said HM should control the entire parcel with strong input from OS.

Public Comment

Greg Futoma prepared a statement in response to Terry Lewis wanting more specifics at the OS meeting in February. The statement needs to be finalized by the OS Commission. Greg said OS supports shared management and offers educational value along with environmental community ties that provide assistance and knowledge.

Mike McGee said he has no objections to OS commission members attending HM meetings and providing education.

A discussion about jurisdiction ensued between Michael Barnes and Greg Futoma.

Chris Kerr said his family gave the property to the town for water access and recreational boat launching and this is HM purview.

Steps Toward a Recommendations to the BOS

Michael Barnes motioned to have John Mesham and Jared Bombaci draft a recommendation for the BOS approval after seeing the finalized /approved OS statement. Michael Aurelia seconded.

Discussion: All agreed that Jared and John could be objective. Mike and Mike should flag and stake the area before the committee field trip to be scheduled before the next meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is March 14, 2023 at 8:15 a.m.

Adjourn: Michael Barnes motioned to adjourn at 9:25 a.m. Jared Bombaci seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted: Suzanne McAuliffe, Clerk