

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

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

In attendance:

In person: Vice Chair Steve Cinami, Steve Urbowicz, Brad Yerks, Corey Bullock

On WebEx: Treasurer Andrea Lombard, Dimitri Tolchinski

Absent: Rob McCarthy, Randy Nixon

Also in attendance: 4 members of the public via WebEx

Call to Order

Vice Chair Steve Cinami called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – February 15th, 2023

Motion by A. Lombard to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023 meeting. Second by D. Tolchinski. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Update and Expenses

Meritas Law Firm – didn't bill us for some time but continued to bill us so it was decided to pay the bill. We now have a \$0 balance. No new invoices or expenses.

Business

Sound View Sewer and Misc Area B Project:

Clean Water funding application status – Application has to be updated because it was out of the timeframe that the contract stated. Total amount of CWF application is \$943,947.70. Getting grant so total loan amount will be \$561,400. This will bring us up to date with engineering firm. Once Tim signs it will go to DEEP and it will be funded – just a matter of paperwork making its way through the process.

Status of additional funding / grant applications – Several meetings in past month with other beach associations concerning Old Lyme Shores and DEEP. Old Lyme Shores sent letter asking WPCA for a meeting because they feel it is not financially feasible for them. Had a meeting on Saturday 3/11 to understand Old Lyme Shores point of view. They feel they rushed into this and are not equipped to run the project. Rich scheduled meeting with DEEP and before they started DEEP stated they are 98% committed to granting WPCA \$17 million. DEEP will absorb all cost up to 50% of the project. Old Lyme Shores requested a nullification of the consent order and DEEP stated they would not be entertaining any efforts to nullify the consent order. Once project is completed DEEP will forgive the \$17 million loan.

Review of Proposed Sewer Ordinance public comments.

Mary Daley - wanted to view recording of meeting and it is now posted on the website

Fraser Walsh - wants to get paid but will get paid when funding is approved.

Requested First Selectman to sign documents regarding Clean Water Fund.

2nd letter to alliance from Old Lyme Shores on number of issues – WPCA responded with a thank you and letting them know we are waiting on what DEEP says.

Martha Marx – bond request for \$26 million

Joe Courtney – request for \$3 million grant was submitted

Correspondence

Nothing new other than public comments above

New Business

Brad Yerks has been appointed to the WPCA board.

Public comment

Dennis Melluzzo, Portland Ave – East Lyme is in a building blitz at Dodge Pond. Have gone on record of saying sewer system is not capable of handling Dodge Pond and Oswegatchie hills. What will be Old Lyme’s responsibility when that system gets upgraded? I imagine anyone using the sewer system has to pay the additional charges. Also, at the last WPCA meeting there was a lot of talk about design phase and lots of conversation about having the design posted. If we are paying \$615,000 for design feature is that at 100%? How can you have a design that’s not complete? Sections in Old Colony and Miami Beach with conflict of interest with Sound View.

Mary Daley – Listened to the minutes. Lots of discussion around not having paper copy of the plans and heard that the plans are only designed to 60%. How can WPCA say how much they need for project or how much homeowners will pay if design is not complete? Agrees with Dennis’s comment that it seems like we are back full circle where we were 3 years ago with issues with Sound View. Thinks if math was done now they will not have enough money to finish the project. It’s not just about money it is about the environment and still believe there is a more affordable solution here and that is to go green. We want to be progressive in solutions and cost effective and sewer plan is not no matter where you get the money from.

Brian Cornell, Sound View area – cannot understand why WPCA and people of Old Lyme would move forward with this project when it makes no sense. Asked for a meeting with Senator Marx and were not granted that and suddenly DEEP comes up with money. Feels that design is poor and that there are other ways to deal with the monies from the town other than digging holes and putting more pipes in. Still an ugly pump station that will be stuck by the beach that

residents and guests will see. Sound View sewer coalition has been asking for seat at the table for a long time and Chairman Prendergrast does not answer their questions. Entire town voted for project although it only impacts a small part of the population. Lastly, he has heard no solutions for how long-term management of this system will be handled. What are the plans?

Vice Chair Steve Cinami Response to Public Comment - Will be paying full 100% when we have the 100% plans and the project is put out to bid. Old Lyme WPCA has not bid so do not know yet if over budget or under budget. It has only been bid for joint shared WPCA infrastructure. Appreciate point of views but have tried for septic system first and DEEP said no. DEEP determines the remedy and they have decided that sewerage the beach communities is the way to remedy the situation. WPCA has not been formally contacted by East Lyme or Waterford regarding their sewers so cannot speak to them.

Adjournment

Motion by B. Yerks to adjourn the meeting. Second by A. Lombard. Discussion: None. Motion carried by majority.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Correia, WPCA Clerk