

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF OLD LYME
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Approximately seventy-five electors and citizens attended the Town of Old Lyme Special Town Meeting on Monday, September 30, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Meeting Hall of the Memorial Town Hall, 52 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

First Selectwoman, Martha Shoemaker, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and she called for nominations for a moderator for the meeting.

A motion was made by Jude Read and seconded by Dave Mitchell, to nominate Attorney Eric Parker to serve as moderator. There were no other nominations for moderator. All were in favor.

Attorney Parker asked Vicki Urbowicz, Town Clerk, to read the call of the meeting.

1. To approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$54,776 for the Zoning Regulations Update.

Attorney Parker called upon First Selectwoman, Martha Shoemaker, to present Item 1. First Selectwoman Shoemaker stated that the Town was in the process of updating the Zoning Regulations. It was anticipated that the update would be completed in two phases. A total of \$75,000 was budgeted for FY 2024/2025 and another \$75,000 would be budgeted for FY 2025/2026. This went out to bid. A bid in the amount of \$129,776 was received from FHI which included both phases. Thus, the Town is looking for an additional appropriation of \$54,776 to fund the entire project this year.

A motion was made by Bennett Bernblum and seconded by Denise Savageau to approve Item 1.

Eric Knapp, our Town's Land Use Coordinator answered questions from the public. He was asked about the purpose of the changes. Eric explained that the Zoning Regulations would be reorganized in a more user-friendly way. They would include public outreach to determine what is important to the residents so that they can be included in the Zoning Regulations.

Carol Mitchell asked, "when will we see these?" Eric explained that Phase 1 takes about a year. Six to eight months before finalizing them, there would be a public hearing. Then they would need to be approved by the Planning Commission and Board of Selectmen.

Eric Parker asked for a vote on Item 1. All were in favor. None Opposed.

Motion Carried.

2. To approve an appropriation of \$60,000 for the construction and paving of ADA compliant parking spaces within the Sound View Parking lot and on Hartford Avenue.

First Selectwoman Shoemaker was called upon to present Item 2. She explained that in October of 2023 she was notified by the U.S. Attorney that two complaints were filed due to insufficient ADA compliant parking spaces in the Sound View Beach area. In July of 2024, the Town signed an agreement with the U.S. Attorney's office to comply within six months. Two bids were received. One for \$60,000 and the other for \$80,000 to create handicapped van accessibility and to relocate the golf cart parking to allow for more handicapped parking spaces. The \$60,000 bid was accepted.

A motion was made by Jude Read and seconded by Carolyn Miranda to approve Item 2. Attorney Parker asked for a vote. All were in favor of None Opposed.

Motion Carried.

3. To approve an appropriation of \$144,500 for the Hawks Nest Beach Sluiceway Reconstruction.

Attorney Parker asked First Selectwoman Shoemaker to present Item 3. First Selectwoman Shoemaker explained that the Swan Brook Sluiceway (The “crib”) carries water from the storm drains from Peppermint Ridge to the Crib which then releases it into the ocean. The Crib was damaged in the storms of December of 2023 and January of 2024. Docko redesigned the Crib by installing deeper pilings and cross ties between the two walls of the Crib. The new Crib will be located thirty feet out into the ocean and will be built at an angle to help with the direction of incoming storms to prevent damage to it.

A motion was made by Gary Fox and seconded by Tim Griswold to approve Item 3. A discussion was had.

First Selectwoman Shoemaker answered various questions from the public; namely as to whether cleaning or dredging the Brook would create more flow and less blockage. First Selectwoman Shoemaker stated that as the Crib will be thirty feet out and built at an angle; this should prevent the frequent blockage. The question of safety was brought up and whether signage was needed to keep children out. This will have to be investigated to see what can be done. It was suggested that the Town reserve money in the future in case the Crib needs to be rebuilt again.

Attorney Parker called for a vote to approve Item 3. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Motion Carried.

4. To approve an inter-departmental transfer of funds from Municipal Refuse -Single Stream, Municipal Refuse – Tonnage and Public Works – Road Salt/Sand budgets and within the FY 2023/2024 Town Budget of \$71,000 to the Transfer Station.

First Selectwoman Shoemaker introduced Anita Mancini, our Finance Director, to discuss Item 4. Anita explained that the Town was not seeking additional money but was moving \$71,000 to different accounts.

Attorney Parker asked if there were any questions from the public. There were none.

Cheryl McCoutry (??) made a motion to approve Item 4. Andy Russell seconded it. A vote was taken. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Motion Carried.

5. To adopt Town Ordinance 150-15 regarding Tax Abatement under Article VII Tax Relief for Housing for Low or Moderate-Income Persons.

Bennett Bernblum was called upon to present Items 5 and 6. Mr. Bernblum stated that the Town has historically provided tax relief to Hope, Ryefield Manor and Lymewood. The Town would like to adopt Town Ordinance 150-15 and 150-16 to memorialize what has always been done in the past. The adoption of these Ordinances does not affect any money changes in our current budget.

A question came from the public as to whether these Tax Abatements/Credits were applicable to an individual homeowner. Mr. Bernblum responded “no.”

Anna Reiter made a motion to approve Items 5 and 6 and seconded by Dave Mitchell. There was one Nay. All others were in favor.

Motion Carried.

6. **To adopt Town Ordinance 150-16 regarding Tax Credits under Article VII Tax Relief for Housing for Low or Moderate-Income Persons.**

Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Jude Read and Seconded by Christina Gotowka to adjourn the Town Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Vicki Urbowicz
Town Clerk