

**OLD LYME SHORES WPCA QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**  
**August 18, 2022 7:30PM VIA ZOOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by WPCA Chairman, Al Roy. In attendance: Tom Annuilli, John Cunningham, Al Roy, Bryan Even (ex-officio), Dede DeRosa joined the meeting at 8:04pm. Absent: Sue Mahoney, Bob Palazzo. Four BOG members and six residents were also on the call.

Al delivered a brief opening statement included at the end of these minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Since a quorum was not available at the start of the meeting, Al Roy deferred approval of the May Board minutes until the next WPCA on 11/17.

**TREASURER'S REPORT - Tom Annuilli**

Tom Annuilli provided the board with the end-July financial statements which are attached to these minutes. Tom reviewed the following:

- a. Financial Statements - covered June/Year-end in detail.
- b. Status of Accumulated Debt - Reviewed all components in detail;  
Kathi Stickley asked numerous questions; Tom emphasized that this projection is the worst case in his professional opinion; WPCA and BOG have been and will be in constant communication to ensure no surprises; discussed financial contingency plan.

Vote on acceptance of Treasurer's Report was deferred until 11/17 meeting.

**SEWER PROJECT STATUS - Al Roy**

The Town of Old Lyme and East Lyme finally signed the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA). East Lyme prolonged this negotiation by seeking unreasonable terms and conditions. There were no changes in terms and conditions for OLS, Miami Beach or Old Colony.

We await response on the federal grant request. We were told we would hear "late summer".

Work is underway between the beach associations and the state to determine the best approach to converting our Interim Funding Obligations (IFO) for all of the design work to Permanent Loan Obligations (PLO). This must be done by January and will involve expenses incurred for internal design work as well as the shared infrastructure design.

**OLD LYME REGIONAL WASTEWATER PRESENTATION - August 27th**

The Town of Old Lyme and Three Beaches combined WPCAs will hold an informational meeting on Saturday August 27th at 10:00am. This meeting will be conducted in person at the Old Lyme Middle School with remote access also available. The objective of the meeting is to clarify variables and

differences between the proposed infrastructure work in each of the four impacted beach areas while providing up to date information on the sewer project as a whole. OLS is playing a key role in putting the presentation together. The agenda can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

[Regional Wastewater Meeting Agenda](#)

## **FOIA REQUESTS AND RESPONSES**

Many FOIA requests have been received over the past year, especially since Al assumed the Chairman's role over a year ago. Two recent requests asked for an extensive amount of data and information. It took nearly 60 days to compile and reply and included a total of approximately 90 documents, a seven page response, and a dozen links to information previously posted on the OLS website. FOIA activity is now posted for all OLS residents to ensure full transparency.

The time it took to respond was totally appropriate and reasonable give the structure and nature of our WPCA. Al paraphrased a statement in the responses:

*As you know, unlike a town, city, state or federal entity, or private enterprise, the WPCA is comprised solely of volunteers and lacks the full-time and paid organizational structure, office staff, central filing mechanisms, office copiers, etc. found in government and business settings. As such, we deem the timing of our initial and this final response as entirely reasonable.*

Dede inquired about the status of the the most resent request regarding the Town of Old Lyme application for federal funding. Al said this slipped his mind with the intensity of recent project activity and sent an initial response after the meeting with documentation to follow.

It was also mentioned that the BOG/WPCA has sought legal opinions to ensure proper handling of requests and protect the interests of the association, both WPCA and BOG boards and our volunteer board members. These legal costs are significant and will be disclosed to the association. Al stated that comments made at the Spring meeting and recent BOG meeting prompted the following statement that was included in the FOIA responses:

*We reject any suggestion or inference that either board is hiding information to either withhold information from our residents or further some clandestine, nefarious objectives. Our volunteer members deserve far better.*

Links to the requests and response are provided below:

FOIA Request from J. Reynolds [06-11-2022] ([link](#))  
FOIA Request from J. Moynihan [08-04-2022] ([link](#))  
Letter - WPCA FOIA Response Letter [08-09-2022] ([link](#))

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

No new correspondence.

## **RESIDENT COMMENTS**

None

## **CLOSING REMARKS:**

Al acknowledged he does not have all of the answers regarding the project but we do have an impressive network of contacts and individuals on our boards as mentioned in his opening remarks. Al also said he is open to individuals who wish to contact him directly to share ideas or particular concerns.

**NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED WPCA BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 17TH AT 7:30PM**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:25pm**

## **AL ROY'S OPENING REMARKS:**

Your WPCA is working diligently to bring this project to a logical conclusion by working collaboratively with our partners in the other beach associations, the Town of Old Lyme and the State of Connecticut. We are approaching all options with a very deliberate and analytical approach. We are acutely aware of current and projected costs and the potential impact they may have on an individual's finances. We feel especially fortunate in having WPCA and BOG board members and officers who possess exceptional business acumen, business sense, and problem solving expertise and experience and have been willing to commit a large portion of their personal time to this effort.

Some have expressed concerns that the CSA group, or alliance as I call them, is "driving the bus". I assure you, I have my foot on the brakes whenever needed and consistently drive discussion to seek informed and intelligent outcomes. My first obligation is to protect the interests of OLSBA and I am not bashful about pushing back or demanding thoughtful resolution to matters at hand.

At a high level, I began communicating our thoughts and efforts in developing an exit strategy some time ago, as can be seen in our previous meeting minutes. We've published the accrued costs to date that we'd need to pay if the project is canceled; for a number of reasons, and on advice of counsel, we have been playing these cards close to the vest. We are walking a legal tightrope, seeking to minimize any possible exposures should we need to exit the project. We are threading the needle in terms of active, genuine participation with steps needed to advance the project, maintaining credibility with our alliance partners, and demonstrating ongoing commitment to DEEP. We believe this approach will be beneficial should we ultimately conclude and verify the project is no longer financially feasible for our community.