

Special Meeting of the Old Lyme Shores Board of Governors

October 18, 2023

7:45 PM

Board of Governors and Association Officers in attendance: Bryan Even (**BE**), Norm Yester (**NY**), Tom Annulli (**TA**), Joanne Gilland (**JG**), MaryKate Reynolds (**MKR**), John Mandracchia (**JM**), Kathi Stickley (**KS**), Paul Yellen (**PY**), Lou Riccelli (**LR**) (arr.7:49)

Absent- Al Roy (**AR**)

Member Guests: Approx. 46 people including BOG and WPCA members

- Call to Order: 7:47 PM
BE- Opening remarks for Special Meeting of BOG; public comments to be at the end of the meeting.
Motion made to approve minutes from October 2, 2023: **TA / JM ; no discussion; Unanimously passed**

- Discussion of issues pertaining to the ownership, membership, voting rights and service on the OLS Board of Governors and the WPCA:

BE-The 10/02/23 meeting saw the appointment of Greg Symon to the WPCA, the reappointment of Dede DeRosa, John Cunningham and TA to the WPCA while the reappointment of AR to the WPCA was tabled due to his admission that his name was not on the OLS deed. BE sought a legal opinion from Hinckley Allen who issued a summary opinion stating that the person that owns land in OLS and is 21 years old meets the definition of being an OLSBA member required by the charter. The spouse/domestic partner of owner not on the deed is not an OLSBA member and thus ineligible to hold office.

PY questioned how members could get on the board without their ownership status being verified. JM would like a formal process to make sure that this does not happen again. Would like nominating committee to provide a form or the candidates to provide a biography or cv with a formal statement on why they would like to be on the board.

BE- the charter and incorporating documents does not leave any gaps in what is allowed and does not want to be exposed to risk by having a board member who was not qualified according to the charter. AR was voted in wrongfully and cannot hold any office in the WPCA or BOG. Would like a transition plan developed to transfer knowledge.

BE- MKR resolved issues and is eligible to hold position on the board. Name is on the OLS property deed (recorded with the town clerk on 10/12/23). During past discussion of property ownership, AR had replied his name was not on the deed; therefore, not possible to consider him to reappoint him on the WPCA; term has expired; thus the seat on the WPCA is open. Position on the BOG is also open. Seat will need to be filled and does not think it is possible to table it. He has received emails from 3 people who expressed an interest in the board seat; TA is chair of nomination committee.

- Address issues related to BOG position, if any, created by the outcome of the final open seat on the WPCA

TA -must have 2 people from WPCA on the BOG; Greg Symon is a qualified individual who has recently been voted on the WPCA. Greg Symon-discussed a bit about himself and he does meet the criteria to being a board member. In addition, he previously had been on the board.

PY asked if it was necessary to have a motion made and a vote to remove AR or is the removal based on the legal opinion.

BE- AR is disqualified by the charter so there is no vote necessary; charter specifically states this; legal opinion reviewed case law on the state level and also researched case law on other municipalities.

PY- AR on vacation which may have prevented him from rectifying his position disqualifying him from being on the board.

BE-if remedied and becomes eligible there are opportunities every year when someone drops off the board or WPCA

A motion was made to approve Greg Symon to vacant position on the Board of Governors TA/LR

YEA: JM, MKR, KS, LR, TA

NO: PY

Motion passes- GS installed on BOG in the open seat

- Address final open seat on WPCA which was “tabled” during the 10/2/2023 BOG meeting

BE-ensured the WPCA that the BOG’s priorities are to work with the WPCA to determine what skill sets are necessary to successfully fill the open seat on the WPCA; wants to canvass the association to see what talents there are to determine the best person.

DeDe DeRosa stated her approval of either Paul or Maura Graml for the open position. Both had put their names in for both boards.

JM also wants to post the position to the entire community. Would like to see an outline of “job responsibilities” for the open position.

A motion was made to table the appointment of someone to the open seat on the WPCA for an additional two weeks. TA/PY

YES: JM, MKR, KS, LR, PY, TA

Unanimously passed

GS-wants to pick a date, possibly Nov 1 for another meeting and PY would like to get out something to community to gather interested people

- Resident Comments:

Public comments/questions were made by Paul Graml, Brightwater Rd, who asked if the securing of legal opinion was voted on and what was the cost.

Public comment was made from Norm Yester who wants to commend BE and the board to do such a thorough job which will set the precedent for years to come.

Public comment was made from Diane Duhaime- Saltaire Dr- on the qualification to be an owner from the legal opinion; where on the legal opinion does it say that they are automatically disqualified?

Public comment made by John Cunningham- Billow Rd -want board to go the route of engaging the community to find a collaborative way to move forward.

Public comment by DeDe DeRosa- AR was renominated by this nominating committee and voted in to remain on the Board of Governors in June of this year.

A motion was made to adjourn- 8:57 PM- TA / MKR