**Meeting Minutes**

**Regular** Meeting of the OLSBA BOG on Wednesday, January 22, 2024, at 7pm via Zoom.

1. A quorum was verified by a roll call and the meeting was called to order by Paul Yellen at 7:03PM

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| --- | --- |
| **BOG Officers:**  Paul Yellen **(Paul Y)**, President  Rob Cappelucci **(Rob C)**, Treasurer | **BOG Members:**  Jay Moynihan **(Jay M)**  MaryKate Reynolds **(MaryKate R)**  Greg Symon **(Greg S)**  Scott Rottinghaus **(Scott R)**  Tim Larson **(Tim L)** |

* There were 47 attendees on the Zoom call

1. **Vote** seeking to approve the minutes for the November 20, 2024 and December 18, 2024 meetings of the BOG.

Motion made by **Greg S**/seconded by **Scott R**

Roll Call: YES – All NO- none Abstain- none

**Motion Passes**

1. Update on sign distribution to residents.
   1. So far there are 42 people who have put their name in for a sign. Names will be pulled around the end of February so if you are interested, please send your name to **Paul Y** ([paul.yellen@oldlymeshores.org](mailto:paul.yellen@oldlymeshores.org)). Names will be pulled randomly from a hat according to street to determine how the signs are distributed.
2. How to access recorded WPCA and BOG Zoom meetings, resident question.
   1. The BOG is in the process of figuring out how to do so.
3. Treasurers Report, preparation for 2025-2026 budget process.
   1. **Rob C** provided the Treasurers report. Due to technical issues with QuickBooks, there are no financial reports for this meeting.
   2. Budget update: **Rob C** has begun an initial draft of the 2025-26 budget and will meet with the Finance Committee to review and approve prior to the new fiscal year.
   3. **Paul Y:** Revaluation notices have been received from the town. With home values going up, the town will have to lower the mill rate, and OLS will look to potentially lower their mill rate to reflect the actual budget.
4. Bills to be approved and paid:

| Date Rec. | Invoice Date | Vendor Name | For | Amount | Budget Line Item |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Old Colony Beach Assn. | Cleaning out Sheffield Brook pipes | $1,400.00 |  |
|  |  | Carolyn Cumello | Admin. work | $187.50 |  |

Motion made by **Tim L**/seconded by **Greg S**

**Discussion:** The cleaning of the brook was extensive and hoping it will last until the Spring.

Roll Call: YES – All NO- none Abstain- none

**Motion Passes**

1. Review meeting held with DEEP on January 14, 2025 via Zoom with members of the BOG and WPCA.
   1. Meeting was with Carlos Esguerra from DEEP, the deputy director of his division, and the division director and was attended by **Paul Y**, **Jay M**, Jack Reynolds, Bob Palazzo, **Rob C**, and **Tim L**
   2. **Paul Y:** Overall, a productive meeting. It is good to keep open lines of communication to show OLS is making progress. Emphasized the seasonal nature of the community and how it restricts the voting timeline and other concerns including the cost of the project. DEEP Divisional Director stated they would like to see an approved vote as soon as possible when there is a significant number of residents back in the community.
2. WPCA update. Review draft proposal for “game plan” moving forward.
   1. **Jay M** provided an update on the Sewer & Stormwater Project. The shared project is out to bid, with bids expected by February 14th and Miami & Old Colony’s internal project bids opening February 20th. After bids are opened, the process involves a local recommendation, state review of eligible vs. ineligible costs, bid approval, and project commencement. Construction is expected to begin this year, lasting about 400 days. An additional component, bridge crossings on Route 156, will require $120k for engineering and $700k for construction, both clean water fund eligible with costs split among the shared project.
   2. **Jay M’s** memos to the board on January 13th and 20th outlined the potential game plan, including possible vote dates (May 17th or 24th), and key points of consideration on bond resolution costs, project administration, a project implementation plan, and more. He also suggested splitting the bond resolution for each of the projects (i.e. sewers, stormwater, and road improvements).
   3. **Tim L** raised concerns about delaying the project, potentially losing economies of scale, opposed splitting bond resolutions, and suggested a survey of the community. **Bob P** clarified that splitting bonds avoids one project overrunning and using all funds.
   4. **Rob C** emphasized the importance of deadlines and accountability. He highlighted Nisha Patel's (DEEP) comments including ‘we need to vote ASAP’, ‘meeting needs to happen as soon as possible’, ‘this isn’t all about Old Lyme Shores, we need to consider the project as a whole’ and she also acknowledged how helpful it will be to the community to see the bids on February 14th. Greg S agreed that deadlines and accountability are critical, expressing concern that a May vote may be too late.
   5. The WPCA will finalize the game plan next week, with the BOG reviewing and approving it for submission to the state. **Paul Y** will email the state with progress updates after the meeting to maintain open lines of communication.
3. Discussion on new bond resolution, wording of bond resolution and possibly vote on proposed method of member voting for increasing the funding for the sewer project. Revisit and discuss prior decisions on voting and voting dates held at last BOG meeting.
   1. Paul Y reiterated that he will not support a remote Zoom vote and that an in-person vote is critical. He is working with Paul Graml on creating a proxy vote form for those who may not be able to attend the vote, and it is being reviewed by OLS’s attorney to ensure compliance with the charter.
   2. **Vote:** Motion to modify the previous vote to take place on May 24th, or earlier, inclusive of proxy voting.

Motion made by **Scott R**/seconded by **Greg S**

Roll Call: YES – All NO- none Abstain- none

**Motion Passes**

1. Nominations Committee Report. Discussion and **vote** on filling two (2) vacant positions on the WPCA.
   1. **Paul Y** tabled the vote on the two WPCA openings until a special meeting of the BOG can be help. Possibly to be held the week of the 29th of January.
2. Nominations Committee report. Discussion and **vote** on vacant BOG position, Vice President and Secretary positions.
   1. If you are interested in the position of Secretary, please reach out to Paul Yellen ([Paul.Yellen@oldlymeshores.org](mailto:Paul.Yellen@oldlymeshores.org)) or a member of the BOG.
      1. As there has been no interest so far in the secretary position the Nominating Committee will work on developing a recruitment plan.
   2. **Vote:** Motion to accept the nomination from the Nomination Committee for **Jack Thomas** to fill the vacant position on the BOG.

Motion made by **MaryKate R**/seconded by **Scott C**

**Discussion:** Jay M asked about the appointment length, and Paul Y clarified it would last until the June meeting, where members would be formally voted in to complete the term. Nominations were opened to the floor & Bob P nominated himself for the BOG position. Greg S questioned whether nominees from the floor would bypass the nomination committees vetting process and its fairness. Paul Y suggested that nominees from the floor be referred back to the nominating committee.

* + 1. Motion is tabled by **Paul Y** to be discussed at the special meeting occurring the week of the 29th of January.

1. Any other items to be motioned onto the agenda
   1. None

**Tim L** left meeting at 8:42 pm

1. Public Comments
   1. A resident (Martin Merritt) asked when the May vote timing will be shared and suggested sharing the bond resolution wording beforehand. **Paul Y** answered that within the communications plan he envisions emails, newsletters, etc. and public hearings via Zoom & in person with the State where residents will be informed and have questions answered.
2. Motion to adjourn made by **Greg S** / seconded by **MaryKate R**

Roll Call: YES – All NO- none Abstain- none

**Motion Passes**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.