

March 6, 2025

Dear OLS neighbor,

As a member of both the Board of Governors (BOG) and Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), I have been requested to provide you with a brief update regarding the sewer project.

Overview:

As you are likely aware, OLS has been subjected to two Administrative Consent Orders from the state of Connecticut which resulted in a decision by the state of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) that, in order to protect groundwater and the waters of Long Island Sound, sanitary sewers needed to be constructed within our community.

In 2012, the association authorized a bond resolution establishing a maximum appropriation of \$9.7 million to pay for the sewer project, as well as the engineering and construction of a stormwater disposal system. Installation of an improved public water infrastructure was also included in the bonding resolution of 2012. As it turned out, that capital project was done and paid for by Connecticut Water in 2020.

Since then, Old Colony, Miami Beach and the town of Old Lyme (specifically the Sound View section) have agreed to participate with OLS in a cost sharing collaboration for the “shared sewer” infrastructure. That plan was agreed upon by all parties and includes a shared force main, bioxide facility, and pump station that would ultimately serve and be maintained by those involved in their construction.

Current Happenings:

The state continues to insist that the Old Lyme Beach Association vote on a new Bond Resolution covering the anticipated revised 2025 costs. The planned vote on the Bond Resolution that was scheduled for October/November, 2024 did not occur. Since then, the leadership of the BOG and WPCA has changed and Paul Yellen is currently serving as the association president and Bob Palazzo is serving as the interim chairman of the WPCA.. Importantly, of the four entities involved in the sewer project, only OLS has not approved a Bond Resolution covering the updated costs expected for the project’s completion.

Following a discussion with DEEP on January 15, 2025, Paul Yellen sent a letter to DEEP informing them that the WPCA and BOG was developing a timeline and plan of action and proposed **a bond resolution vote on May 24, 2025**, or earlier. He stressed the need that it be an in-person vote, yet inclusive of proxy voting so as to allow all members to participate in this decision making process.

Presently, OLS leadership is preparing for the May 24, 2025 vote by reviewing and updating the bond resolution and assessing project costs and assumptions. Additionally, in the event that the bond is passed, an implementation plan is being drafted which would establish events/activities/accountabilities that would need to be addressed by the WPCA and BOG.

Mr. Yellen also committed to providing association members with responsive communications as we move forward towards a vote. To that end, sharing a game plan with timeline is now on the OLS website. If you are able, please take some time to review it.

Going Forward:

We anticipate providing our next written project update in approximately two weeks. Additionally, it is our goal to gather your questions and respond with answers by email and/or be posted on the website every two weeks. Information about the email address where questions can be conveyed will be addressed in our next project update.

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