



TO: Residents of Old Lyme Shores Beach Association

FROM: Paul J. Yellen, President OLSBA

DATE: July 24, 2025

RE: Roadway Safety

Good afternoon. Yesterday I posted a short note on our FB page about unsafe operation of different types of vehicles on our OLSBA roadways. After receiving additional comments and calls I thought I'd expand on it today.

I received a very specific complaint yesterday regarding unsafe operation of an electric scooter on our roadways. This complaint stated that the resident has observed that young persons operating an electric scooter or scooters were attempting to see how fast they could get going and see what speed registered on our speed cameras. This person was exiting their driveway and a collision between the two vehicles was closely averted. This has also been seen by other residents and has been reported to me since I made that posting.

The speed limit on all our roads is a maximum of 15 MPH for everything that operates on our roads including bikes, mopeds, scooters, cars and any other vehicle. And, ALL vehicles must stop at all stop signs and yield the right of way to walkers on our streets.

This year has seen a significant increase in the use of these scooters as well as mopeds on our roads as well as the usual bikes and golf carts. Golf carts are a very complicated topic here at OLS with no easy answer. Many years ago, the association voted to prohibit golf carts on our roads for safety reasons but did not set up any enforcement mechanism. The minutes of the association meeting where this vote was taken cannot be located although there is frequent mention of it in regular BOG meetings. Regardless of their status, they are never to be operated by unlicensed persons (especially children even if there is an adult sitting next to them) and they must follow all of our roadway regulations.

How do we remedy these unsafe actions on our roads? Speed bumps have been suggested but in turn create additional hazards. We have had them installed in the past but were forced to remove them after a threatened lawsuit for damage to a low-slung vehicle. There were also tripping issues and our snow plowing contractor will not plow our roads if we have traditional speed bumps because of potential damage to his plow trucks.

I think that education of our residents and those who are operating these modes of transportation is the first step. Remind your family members of our regulations and that they are in place to keep our residents and guests safe. Do not tolerate unacceptable and unsafe behavior saying that “they’re just kids” or “they’re just having fun”.

Despite our private road status, if there is an accident involving one of these where there is property damage or worse, an injury, the Old Lyme Police and the Connecticut State Police will be involved and if found at fault the operator, owner and/or parent will be subject to their enforcement actions as well as being subject to potential civil actions by the victim.