

POINT O'WOODS
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
September 27, 2016 6:30-9:00 PM, Old Lyme Library
860-434-5686 pointowoodsct.com powoffice@att.net

Approved Minutes

Type of Meeting: Regular

Secretary: Jean M. Smith

Attendees: Carl Filios, Mike Aron, Fred Callahan, Bud Phelps, Beth Kelly, Jennifer Reyes, Roy Johnson

Carl Filios called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Citizen Speak:

Bobbi Schmidt, 20 Oak Rd, asked the Board if the posting of political signs was a violation of the sign ordinance. A Board discussion of the topic was added to the agenda.

Dick Burlingham, Walnut Rd, commented that political signs had been posted in the past.

Approve Agenda: Fred Callahan requested the addition of a discussion of the water that collects under the railroad bridge that impedes passage in and out of Point O'Woods. Beth Kelly asked that discussions of fall work and winter work be added to the agenda. Beth Kelly motioned to approve the agenda as amended, Bud Phelps seconded and the motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Jean Smith reported that the minutes had been amended to clarify that the Mr. Zgorski referred to in the minutes was Mr. Marc Zgorski, not another resident with the same last name. Beth Kelly moved to accept the minutes as of the 7/26/16 BOG meeting Bud Phelps seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Roy Johnson distributed the August financial report. Mr. Johnson reported that we have about \$27,000 in delinquent taxes. Current bank deposits stand at about \$820,000. The actuals are \$17,000 favorable to the budget. Bud Phelps moved to accept the treasurer's report, Beth Kelly seconded and the motion passed.

GUEST SPEAKER: Old Lyme Harbor Master, Harry Plaut

Carl Filios invited Mr. Plaut to enlighten the Board about the various regulatory requirements and jurisdictions regarding Point O'Woods abutting waters. Mr. Filios stated that in recent years there have been efforts by the Board to ensure both compliance and safety but needed to better understand The Association's rights and responsibilities. Mr. Plaut covered several issues of concern and discussed with the Board possible ways to address. Key points included:

Permitted Swim Area: Point O'Woods has a permitted swim area and has the right and responsibility to establish how that area is used. DEEP classifies watercraft that are allowed in the swim area by propulsion so that any motor, paddle, or oar propelled watercraft are not allowed (Kayak, canoe, rowboat, paddleboard, etc.). He stated that allowing fishing in the swim area at any time is not a good practice since loss of tackle and hooks present a serious danger to swimmers. A \$220 fine applies to anything that gets tied up to swim lines. He recommends a separate line for jet skis. All swim line buoys must be orange and he recommends painting them each year to extend their lifetime.

Boat Basin and Channel: Mr. Plaut reported that the Marina (Boat Basin) and the boat channel out to the sound are the property of Point O'Woods. He stated that Point O'Woods, therefore can establish the rules they feel necessary to ensure the enjoyment and safety of the people. He suggested Point O'Woods find out how these issues are handled by other marinas.

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Communications: Posting signage of all regulations, ordinances, etc. is a good practice. Additionally, use of the President's Corner on the website, the Fall Newsletter and any other vehicles are important to let the community know what is or is not allowed and that there will be enforcement. Mr. Plaut offered to come to the 2017 Annual Meeting to more broadly communicate the need to ensure the safety of all.

Enforcement: Based on the issues that the Board brought up, Mr. Plaut stated that there could be more oversight in 2017. He stated that if infractions are witnessed by anybody, they could take a photo of the situation, get the registration number and send the information to him. A ticket will be issued and the fines will be applied by DEEP.

Moorings Permits: Mr. Plaut commented that there are moorings in place on the east side of Point O'Woods along Seaview Rd that do not have permits and the owners are at risk for fines. This will be more strongly enforced in 2017. Permit fees are minimal and the form is available on the town website - <http://www.oldlyme-ct.gov>.

REVIEW OF OPEN BUSINESS

Tree at 30 Seaview: Mike Aron reported that Mr. Kim, the property owner, sent a letter stating that he would move the tree a little later in the year when it was safer to do so. It was reported that the hole for the tree's new location had been dug.

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Operations Plan: Fred Callahan has obtained a copy of the EOP template to be used in developing such a plan for Point O'Woods. Wayne Buchanan will lead this project and Jean Smith and Shelagh Smith have volunteered to assist. This will be a winter project.

Fall Newsletter: Pamela Spadaccini will be putting together the Fall Newsletter. First Drafts of the commissioner reports are due to Pam 10/16. The 2015 Newsletter can be viewed on the website. Pam will have a first draft for review at the 10/25/16 BOG meeting. The publication is the same as the last 2 years, a seasonal postcard will be mailed indicating that the newsletter is available on the website and those who want a printed version can contact the office.

Ordinance Publication: Jean Smith distributed an excerpt from the charter regarding the publishing of ordinances. The Board agreed it was confusing and difficult to interpret. Carl Filios asked Ms. Smith to contact CT Freedom of Information Officer, Tom Hennick to see if he has any insight or advise.

Political Signage: The Board reviewed the ordinance and agreed that political signage is not allowed under the ordinance. The Secretary was instructed to prepare letters for the President's signature to those displaying such signs instructing them to remove them in a week or be fined. Bud Phelps reported that the road graffiti had been painted over 3 times by the maintenance staff and that was an issue of vandalism, not signage.

Water Collecting Under the Trestle Bridge: Fred Callahan reported that during the recent storms, water that collected under the bridge made it impassable. He expressed concern for residents finding exit from Point O'Woods in the event of a hurricane. Bud Phelps reported that last year they had cleared the drain of concrete residue from the cleaning of concrete trucks outside the underpass. Bud Phelps will contact the town of Old Lyme to see if they could provide some help with this long standing issue.

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Fall Projects: Beth Kelly noted that all Board members should be considering their Fall projects to prepare for winter. Bud Phelps commented that the work on the wall at the tennis court would be a project for 2017.

Winter Work: Beth Kelly asked to have this topic put on the October meeting agenda and Board members give some thought to what they would focus on during the winter so they could discuss it. Carl Filios commented that he and Roy Johnson would be working on the address integration with WPCA. Jean Smith mentioned that the Board needed to plan a focused Budget Meeting for 2017-2018 that was not imbedded in a monthly meeting.

Commissioner Reports: Carl Filios reported that he will be moving from his home in Massachusetts to South Carolina after 1/1/2017. He plans to continue as a Board member but he may miss the March meeting.

Fred Callahan reported that a resident had a blue bicycle stolen. It had been seen over the weekend but had since disappeared.

Citizen Speak: Richard Burlingham, Walnut Rd, commented that the underpass had been blocked in the past by a railroad tie.

Marilyn Stitham, 49 Ridgewood commented that those who choose to remain at Point O'Woods during a hurricane were aware that to do so was their responsibility.

Executive Session: At 8:01 PM, Bud Phelps motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation. Mike Aron seconded. The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:15 PM. No votes taken.

Adjournment: Fred Callahan motioned to adjourn, Mike Aron seconded and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM

Respectfully submitted, Jean M. Smith