

TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

CARL P. FORTUNA JR., FIRST SELECTMAN

SCOTT M. GIEGERICH, SELECTMAN

MATTHEW PUGLIESE, SELECTMAN

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Telephone (860) 395-3123 • Fax (860) 395-3125

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

8:30 a.m.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First Floor Conference Room

Direct link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/Pn25D7Auluo>

It is also included in the following playlists:

Board of Selectmen Meetings: _

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp9SQAHOQUQCR3yLtNYxKOWK>

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** All members present.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Recited
- III. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** None
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN** The First Selectman commented on the following: today's referendum and the projected mill rate increase of .38; Whole Foods has withdrawn its application and will likely reapply; the June 25th Street party (Mr. Pugliese suggest we speak with Blue Earth about food scrap recycling); the Route 1 sidewalk project will begin at the end of the month and important legislation being considered, including early voting, firefighter cancer presumption, reduced interest rate on tax liens, the fair share housing bill and a transit oriented development bill.
- V. **COMMENTS FROM THE SELECTMEN** – Mr. Pugliese commented that the Law Enforcement Fund should be fully spent in the next few weeks as the committee met on May 8th and made some decisions and he asked about the status of the Department of Public Works director (next court date is at the end of May).
- VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Board of Selectmen Meeting April 25, 2023. A *MOTION was made to approve the April 25, 2023 minutes.*
FORTUNA /PUGLIESE
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- VII. **BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**
 - A. Discussion on the Planning Commission with Christina Costa, Land Use Director.
 - i. Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) referralMs. Costa discussed how the plan used to be in sections. This modification now puts the plan in one consistent format and combines some of the existing sections into a new natural resource section and transportation section and will remove the word character. Former sections of the plan have now become supplementary. There was a lot of outreach (425+ survey responses, none in Spanish) and we are looking to adopt in June or July. Mr. Giegerich appreciated all the work that went into this. Mr. Pugliese stated how important this is for state and federal grants and feels that the plan highlights certain themes throughout therefore guiding staff. Ms. Costa is asking for any additional feedback over the next month.

ii. Resiliency Grants

Ms. Costa spoke about roads flooding, drainage issues and raising homes. The first grant we have applied and have been awarded is the 2022 National Fish and Wildlife, Long Island Futures Fund (LIFF) grant where we are working together with Clinton, Westbrook and Fenwick. The concern is that beach associations have a micro view and we should work together so as not to cause more damage than good. Ms. Costa feels Old Saybrook is ahead of all these towns as a result of the study we completed in 2017 with GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc. With this grant we are looking to identify two or three issues that will have a bigger impact. A 2002 second supplementary grant application proposed to conduct a more in-depth study from Cold Spring Brook/Chapman Beach in Westbrook, Summerwood, Chalker Beach marshes to Indiantown. These two grants are helping us look at the health of the shoreline. The result will give us a scientific look and advance the ability to do a construction project that will have shoreline benefits, not just benefits for one community. Both these grants will likely not be complete until mid-2024.

iii. Other

Ms. Costa spoke of several other initiatives: Mapgeo layers will be updated and new layers created: sidewalks, trails, open space, outfalls, zoning, historic properties and 2023 aerial layer once DEEP conducts a flyover. The Planning Commission will begin updating the town's Hazard Mitigation plan this fall for adoption in 2025. Zoning is working hard on addressing its drive thru moratorium to determine how best to adapt to changing times. Zoning will soon be conducting an audit of its affordable housing to confirm existing units are being marketed in compliance with permits and State laws. Boards and commissions are also now requiring more complete applications as they feel that too many applications have come in poorly over the last few years.

B. Discussion and recommendation of any required modifications as referred by the Planning Commission on a proposed amendment to the regulations for Public Improvements, Section 103 B.3

Ms. Costa explained this new regulation gives the homeowner the ability to increase the size of the asphalt driveway on tight lots where septic systems may be encroaching areas that are needed to park. Mr. Pugliese had concerns about the discretion allowed but since it is specific to where public health code requirements are being met, the concern was put to rest. The homeowner will be responsible for maintaining the new larger paved area.

A MOTION was made to approve recommended proposed amendment.

FORTUNA/GIEGERICH

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Discussion and possible action to recommend a Public Hearing on May 23, 2023 for the purpose of discussing the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) 2023 application from the Connecticut Cancer Foundation.

A MOTION was made to approve the Public Hearing on May 23, 2023.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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D. Discussion and possible action on Call of Special Town Meeting, May 23, 2023.
A MOTION was made to approve the Call of Special Town Meeting.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

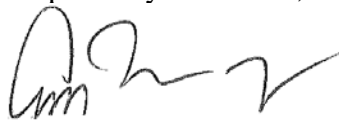
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - *A MOTION was made adjourn at 9:35 a.m.*

PUGLIESE/FORTUNA

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl P. Fortuna Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl P. Fortuna Jr.
First Selectman