

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PUBLIC HEARING OF MAY 20, 2015

MINUTES

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
May 20 2015 AT 9:40 AM/PM
Bridget D. Brown ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Kevin Seery, Holly Cheeseman, Marc Salerno, Rose Ann Hardy, Rob Wilson.

EXCUSED: Mark C. Nickerson.

Mr. Seery called the Public Hearing regarding an Amendment to the Regulation Concerning the Use of Golf Carts to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge. He noted that last year a regulation was passed allowing use of golf carts in certain beach areas. He said that after the regulation was passed, the Crescent Beach Board had voted unanimously to opt out.

Donald Addabbo of 8 Hillside Avenue wanted to know why the Board of Governors voted the use of golf carts down. He said that there were about four that had been purchased and registered in Crescent Beach last year and asked if they could be grandfathered in if the Selectmen let Crescent Beach opt out. He added he was in favor the golf carts remaining.

Joe Casey of 28 Bayview Avenue said that he was against the use of golf carts anywhere and cited safety hazards. He said that there is no place to park them in Crescent Beach and they were pollutants and should not be allowed.

Richard Beers said that he lives in Crescent Beach and he bought a golf cart. He said that many times, he has driven older people home from the beach. He said that the golf carts do not hurt anything and that they are registered, insured and licensed and they take up less room than a car and the Board should continue to allow them.

Mary Blain said that she checked through the existing beach regulations and that under Chapter 4, Traffic Regulations – motorcycles, mopeds and other similar motorized vehicles are prohibited from use on Crescent Beach property noting that the roads are owned by the Town. She said that no vehicle is allowed to park on the streets unless a permit is granted by the Board. She said that parking will be an issue.

Joe Mingo noted he did not live in Crescent Beach but was disabled. He asked what will they do when someone comes in with a disability scooter. He said that the disability laws call for parking regulations and many handicapped seniors need these vehicles. He said people have to cater to the elderly.

Allan York asked how the unanimous no vote was done.

Mike Finger of 6 Tabernacle Avenue said that the town owns the roads and asked why they need a permit from the Beach Association to park on the road.

Maureen Overcash of 108 Columbus Avenue said that she was concerned about safety noting that there is limited parking in the area.

Jack Pasquale of 21 Prospect Avenue said this is an emotional issue but based on the topography and roads and the speed of the traffic in the area, he sees no difference with the golf cart usage.

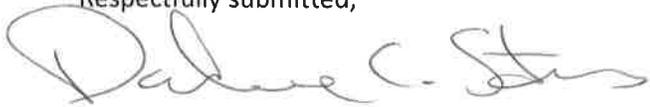
Carolyn Casey 17 Ocean Avenue and President of the Crescent Beach Association said that they did not receive notice when the golf cart issue was voted on by the Selectmen. She noted that she checked and some other beach areas had opted out of the regulation by letter. She said the Board checked with their Attorney and he said that their Charter gives them the right to vote on this item. After discussion at the end of August of last year, the Board voted overwhelmingly against the use of golf carts and opted out. She said that there is nothing in the ordinance that stipulates seniors or the disabled and the main reason they voted to opt out was safety. She said if the Selectmen allow them to opt out, she hoped that infractions would be issued for those who have carts and use them.

MOTION (1)

Ms. Hardy moved to close the Public Hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Seconded by Ms. Cheeseman. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darlene C. Stevens".

Darlene C. Stevens, Recording Secretary