

One Hartford Avenue
Old Lyme, CT 06371
October 09, 2015

Kurt Zemba, Chairman
Old Lyme WPCA
52 Lyme Street
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Dear Mr. Zemba:

As you know, Sound View Beach Association (SVBA), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established as a civic association to advocate for the interests of property owners in Sound View Beach. Unlike the chartered property owner associations in neighboring beaches, SVBA has no authority to make binding civic policy decisions. That authority over Sound View Beach resides with the Town of Old Lyme. While Miami Beach Association, Old Colony Beach Club Association, and Old Lyme Shores Association each has its own Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), Sound View Beach falls under the jurisdiction of the Town of Old Lyme WPCA.

Regarding the published plans of neighboring chartered communities to complete construction of a wastewater transmission system by 2018, there are actions that the Old Lyme WPCA could choose to take that would be of great benefit to both Sound View Beach and the Town of Old Lyme. The proposed plan to connect Miami and Old Colony Beaches includes transmission lines running east and west along Shore and Pond Roads which will intersect with Portland, Hartford and Swan Avenues on the northern and southern ends. Whatever the eventual cost of installing wastewater transmission lines in Sound View Beach, it will never be less than it would be while those lines are under construction. Regardless of opposition to the wastewater transmission project from beach communities farther to the west, it is in the best interest of Sound View Beach for the Town of Old Lyme to coordinate with Miami, Old Colony and Old Lyme Shores beaches in construction of wastewater treatment lines in Sound View Beach at the same time.

The potential benefit to Sound View Beach of this construction extends beyond installation of wastewater transmission lines. Since Connecticut Water Company (CWC) acquired Sound View Water Company (SVWC) in 1995, some 2,400 linear feet of outdated and substandard water mains in Sound View Beach have yet to be replaced in compliance with State of Connecticut Public Utility Regulation Authority orders issued to SVWC in Docket #88-10-01. Consequently, several households are not yet served with adequate water pressure and volume, while others remain on shallow wells because they are beyond reach of the existing system.

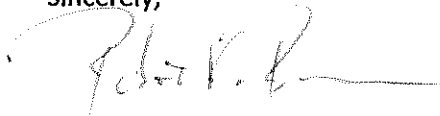
In August 2015, officers of SVBA and former owners of SVWC met with officers of CWC to discuss completion of the water main replacement project. CWC officers indicated that they are willing to complete the project, but are constrained by more urgent demands elsewhere in their enterprise. As a former owner of SVWC, I asked what might raise the priority of the Sound View project. CWC officers responded with several criteria including the opportunity to partner with another entity in a simultaneous construction project in order to share the restoration costs. I do not presume to speak for CWC, but a wastewater transmission line project coordinated with neighboring beaches would create such an opportunity, and provide Sound View Beach with both wastewater transmission lines and a

completed water distribution system. In addition to reduced construction costs, Old Lyme would benefit from reduced groundwater pollution in town, and the administrative effort required to mitigate it.

A further benefit for both Old Lyme and Sound View Beach concerns redemption of abandoned property on Hartford Avenue. SVBA is aware that owners of some of that property are collaborating on an ambitious plan to convert the worst of the blight into year round residential town houses. Success of this plan would benefit Old Lyme with increased property tax revenue, and Sound View Beach with proximate renewal, but these benefits cannot become reality without prior construction of a wastewater transmission system in Sound View Beach.

SVBA urges members of the Old Lyme WPCA to consider both the benefits to all concerned of coordinating construction of wastewater transmission lines in Sound View Beach with neighboring beaches, and to be mindful of the necessarily greater financial burden should that opportunity be missed. Further, SVBA urges that the opportunity in Sound View Beach be considered separately from the opposition and resistance expressed in communities farther to the west. Installing wastewater transmission lines in Portland, Hartford and Swan Avenues in coordination with Miami Beach, Old Colony and Old Lyme Shores by 2018 is the right thing to do, and in the best interests of all concerned.

Sincerely,



Robert V. Breen
Director
Sound View Beach Association

cc:

Board of Selectmen, Old Lyme
Connecticut Water Company
Miami Beach Association
Old Colony Beach Club Association
Old Lyme Shores Beach Association
Sound View Commission