

**TOWN OF EAST LYME
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2021
MEETING MINUTES**

Moderator, Eugene Cushman, called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the East Lyme Town Hall.

Mr. Cushman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Karen Miller Galbo, East Lyme Town Clerk, read the call of the meeting, stating it had been posted on the signpost, published in The Day and recorded in the East Lyme Town Clerk's office.

Moderator stated the ground rules of the Town Meeting.

1. To consider and act upon a special appropriation in the amount of \$126,053 for the following items with the source of funds being America Rescue Funds:

\$ 54,638	Ledge Light Health District
\$ 25,000	East Lyme Giving Garden
\$ 8,965	SECT Council of Governments
\$ 12,500	Save the River/Save the Hills (pumpout boat)
\$ 13,950	American Legion
\$ 9,000	V.F.W.
\$ 2,000	NL Homeless Hospitality Center

Motion (1) Kevin Seery Moved To Approve Item 1.

Seconded By Paul Dagle.

Mark Nickerson stated the Town is receiving approximately 5.4 Million Dollars in American Relief Funds, we have already received half. We see these as immediate needs and want to address them immediately. Ledge Light Health District and Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments were the Town's resources throughout COVID. The East Lyme Giving Garden has bloomed, with volunteers and their donated land, they are growing food that is given to people in need. Save The River/Save The Hills needs to put money toward a new pumpout board, with money also coming from the Town of Waterford and DEEP. The American Legion and the VFW are helping our Veterans in Town, they are not asking for handouts, they want to deliver services to our Veterans. The New London Homeless Hospitality Center provides services to people from East Lyme, we already contribute to them, and this is just a little more. He feels these are intelligent well thoughtout decisions, and he asks for everyone's support.

Deb Mosier-Dunn, the Vice President of Save the River/Save the Hills read a letter into the record (attached as Exhibit A).

Motion (1) Passed.

2. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Motion (2) Kevin Seery moved to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Seconded by Mark Nickerson.

Motion (2) Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Karen Miller Galbo
East Lyme Town Clerk**

Recorded Oct 7 2021
11:30 ^{AM} PM Karen Miller Galbo
East Lyme Town Clerk

Exhibit A



East Lyme Town Hall Special Meeting - Please Vote Yes for the Package!

Save The River-Save The Hills has requested \$12,500 from the Town of East Lyme (as well as \$12,500 from the Town of Waterford), for a shared percentage with DEEP for a new boat for our 20-year-old Pumpout Program. We are desperately in need of a new boat. This past season it was necessary to use our 20-year-old retrofitted back-up boat as an emergency vessel due to the loss of the main pumpout boat, which was deemed inoperable ("unseaworthy") by our insurance company, due to a partial sinking while at dock in the Fall of 2020.

DEEP has allowed us to use the old vessel only on a temporary basis. We have received estimates for a new Pumpout boat of around \$100,000. The boat will have to have specifications to allow it to be not only in the calmer river, but also in the Niantic Bay which is part of the territory our boat services. The \$12,500 will be used as a required match to the DEEP 75% funding for the new boat. The boat manufacturers are asking for 50% upfront and 50% when delivered. DEEP will only grant us the money after the boat is delivered. The two town's donation will allow us to order the boat with matching STR-STH donations and membership funds.

For your consideration: The STR-STH Pumpout program staff have collected over 25,000 gallons of sewage from boats on the Niantic River and Bay during the two COVID Pandemic seasons (May to November 2020-21). Our service continues to be FREE for any boaters in the Niantic River or Bay.

Our Communities are blessed with the wonderful Niantic River Estuary for fishing, swimming, skiing and all related boating experiences. STR-STH's Pumpout Program has been instrumental in helping to keep the Niantic River healthy for the towns of East Lyme and Waterford. Indeed, Fred Grimsey's persistence in creating this program 20 years ago allowed DEEP to close the entire coast of CT to dumping as the Niantic embayment was the last to have a Pumpout Program. Please help us in keeping this critical program alive.

Thank you to the town for continuing to be strong advocates for the health and safety of the Niantic River!

Sincerely,

STR-STH Board