

April 18, 2021

To WAI Members,

It has come to our attention that there is confusion about the “Original Boundaries Clause”, the third item of the proposed bylaws amendments.

When the Bylaws Committee proposed deleting the “the original boundaries” clause, the intention was to avoid the many problems that could arise from this vague language in terms of who would be eligible for membership and could the 200 household membership cap be maintained. The language reads as follows:

Article II, Sec. 4 (2) “The total number of assessed households shall be limited to 200 with a grandfather clause that states people who now reside within the original boundaries will be allowed to join regardless of the total number.”

Whether you believe the original boundaries were the Town of Waterford as stated in our 1949 Bylaws, or you think the Pleasure Beach boundaries established in the 1974 Bylaws were the original boundaries, this language allows an unlimited number of exceptions to be made over and above the 200-member maximum. If this language remains in our bylaws, we will no longer have control over the size of our membership. In fact, the 200 limit has already been surpassed this year because of this very language. Given the risk involved, the Bylaws Committee feels strongly that this clause should be eliminated right now by the April 24th vote or else the floodgates may open.

In addition, it needs to be clarified that the “original boundaries clause” does not create a path to permanent membership succession as many would like to believe. This is a concept which has no legal foundation according to our attorney. Currently, the CT General Statutes prohibit the transfer of membership unless it is provided for in an organization’s bylaws. Our bylaws are silent on the topic of transfer of membership. Therefore, we as an Association must decide what type of transfer of membership will work best for our Pleasure Beach community and reach a consensus to add a new amendment.

The Bylaws Committee knows that the transfer of membership is of utmost importance and plans to address the issue immediately following the April 24th vote. We will seek your input through surveys, discussions, and town hall type meetings. In the meantime, please attend the Town Hall meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 22nd, at 7:00 PM and please vote on or before April 24th.

The Bylaws Committee,
Co-Chairperson Susan Benzyk,
Co-Chairperson Sarah King,
Pat King
Cathy Robbins