

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses Regular Monthly Meeting
September 18, 2023
MINUTES

Warden Michael Schefers called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Borough Hall. Present, in addition to Warden Schefers were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, and Kevin Bowdler; and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Approximately 30 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the monthly meeting of August 21, 2023 with corrections to names of residents who spoke at the meeting, were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

- a. Application for Fish & Chips PHGS parking
- b. Joseph Williams Resume to be on the ZBA Board
- c. Edward Smith, correspondence to consider crosswalk signs
- d. Judith Hanratty, email concerning EV Stations
- e. Elizabeth Bartholet, email for adequate lighting for walking in the Borough at night.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

I will be unable to attend the November Warden and Burgesses meeting since I will be in Mexico for my mother's memorial service. Perhaps we can do the meeting via Zoom so I can attend or arrange for someone else to do the minutes.

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT; ARPA UPDATE

Bills for the period August 18, 2023 through September 15, 2023 totaled \$62,612.02. I&E through September 15, 2023 shows total revenue to date of \$1,000,122.89; and net income to date of \$444,867.83. Balance of ARPA funds is \$30,538. Warden Schefers suggested a quarterly review of the budget at October meeting. Burgess Bowdler asked that Line item 81 and 82 for Tax Revenue be put on one line.

WARDEN'S REPORT

1. No August SCOG meeting.
2. Met with July 2022-June 2023 PKG O'Connor Davies auditors and Ann Fiore.
3. Met with Susan, Emerson and Town Deputy Director of Public Works, Tom Curioso, on Water Street drainage issues at Dodson Boatyard.
4. Met with Danielle Chesebrough on Shoreline East feasibility study.
5. Welcomed, with Danielle Chesebrough,, State Special Olympics sailing competition opening ceremony attendees.

BOROUGH CLOCK –

None

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Scheffers)

1. Conducted monthly brush pickup.
2. Continued Work on painting/repainting Road Stop Signs and Cross Walks
3. Continued road-sweeping and lawn maintenance
4. Installed new “one-way” and “do not enter” signs on Water Street at two locations, due to wrong way driving issues.
5. Reviewed traffic signage from Cannon Square to Omega due to constituent concern on traffic pattern.
Discussion about speed humps. Burgess Nicholas will draft a letter to the Police Commissioner and get on the October Agenda.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

August Police Incident Report

August Police Incident Report

In August, the police responded to 58 incidents including 7 Medical Assists, 6 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 4 Accidents including One Hit and Run, 4 Related Calls, 3 Assist Citizen, 3 Assist Other Agency, 3 Burglar Alarms 2 of which were false, 3 911 Misdials/Hang ups, 3 Suspicious Activity, 2 Found Items, 2 Disturbances, 2 Community Policing and 2 Welfare Checks. There was one incident each of Escort, Criminal Mischief, Animal Bite, Damage Not Criminal, Open Door/Window, Nuisance, Larceny, Keys in Vehicle, Scam, Surrender Firearm/Ammunition, Identity Theft, Marine Incident, Burglary, and a Motor Vehicle Stop.

There was one arrest related to the Motor Vehicle Stop.

Burgess Barnes asked about the commercial truck that hit a Borough-owned tree, backed into it again and left the scene. The person’s insurance should be paying for the damage.

August Fire Report

Chief Hoadley did not attend the meeting, he has COVID. SBFd responded to 15 Alarms in August 2023, of which 6 were in the Borough. They were as follows:

- 1) 8-1-23 11:44pm Transformer & wires on fire, IFO 248 N Water St. (awaiting EVERSOURCE)
- 2) 8-2-23 8:11pm Fire Alarm Activation 84 Water St. (burnt Coquilles St. Jacques)
- 3) 8-9-23 2:05pm Medical Assist with SAC 196 Water St. WAD Club (lift assist)
- 4) 8-11-23 5:07am Fire Alarm Activation 11 Shore Dr. (Metered, changed battery, nothing found)
- 5) 8-11-23 5:22pm Foul odor 219 N Water St. (metered, vented, nothing found)
- 6) 8-12-23 5:30pm Fire Alarm Activation 13 E Grand St. (nothing found)
- 7) 8-14-23 11:19am Fire Alarm Activation 25 Palmer St. (shower steam)
- 8) 8-15-23 9:49pm Low hanging wire IFO 70 Alpha Ave. (utility wire)

- 9) 8-17-23 6:43pm Low hanging wires IFO 21 High St. (utility wire)
- 10) 8-19-23 9:50am Mutual aid with QFD, Fire Alarm Activation 51 Kidds Way (incense)
- 11) 8-19-23 12:11pm Medical assist with SAC 32 Water St. SHYC Dinghy Dock (cardiac arrest)
- 12) 8-19-23 8:42pm Outside Fire 14 Trumbull St. (Fire pit, extinguished)
- 13) 8-22-23 4:00pm Medical assist with SAC Stonington Point (broken leg :(
- 14) 8-30-23 8:48am Odor of gas 26 Quarry Path LP (nothing found)
- 15) 8-31-23 6:43pm Tree limb on wires IFO 21 Cemetery Lane (EVERSOURCE enroute)

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

The stump of the tree that was hit on Main Street has not been ground yet. Assuming the insurance company for the driver will pay, I ask to be allowed to line up a stump grinder and a replacement tree be found. There is a tree on the northwest side of Wadawanuck Square that will be posted to be removed. It has come to the end of its life. There will be some trees planted at Wadawanuck Square this fall. Keeping an eye out for callery pear trees that the Borough owns.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

The cannon wheels are still being repaired. There is a problem with the hydraulics, and I am getting a proposal for a forever granite post.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jesse Diggs commented on the speed bumps idea. Suggests we refer to them as speed cushions. Also, commented on the viaduct and does not agree that it should be replaced. The engineer's report says that it can be repaired. He suggests that the wires under the viaduct be removed, the train will coast from the momentum. He questioned why this was not suggested by the DOT. Al Razzano said that Union Station in New Haven has dead zones.

The owner of 149 Water Street asked where the flashing sign will be next. The issue he has is that it is residential and commercial, the flashing signage shining into people's apartments.

Alan Vaskas suggested signs such as are on Route 6 on Cape Cod that read "densely populated."

Gina Cottrell says there is a sign on the cannons to not stand on them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Comfort Station Update

There was a special meeting of W&B last week. There are 13 members on the new comfort station committee. Burgess Kevin Bowdler reported that the first meeting will be held this Thursday at 7:00, and each Thursday weekly. It is a public meeting. Kevin Bowdler will do the minutes.

Viaduct update

Warden Schefers drafted a letter, along with Danielle Chesebrough, to Amtrak regarding the lack of a second means of ingress and egress during the time the bridge is being worked on.

Draft Vendor Ordinance

Attended the Planning and Zoning Meeting and there could be legal issues around the zone of the Point and whatever is decided on will have to go to a public hearing.

Update on Water Street Flooding Project

Permitting is underway. A letter is being written to notify homeowners with 500ft of the outflow that we have requesting DEEP approval of the project, to which they can comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider requests to use Borough property

Consider request made by PHGS for parking

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve the request by the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society to use three to four parking spaces on Fridays in front of 26 Main St (PHGS) this fall, October 6 through November 17th, from 11 am to 7 pm, for take away orders only, was unanimously approved.

Consider request to appoint Joseph Williams to the ZBA Board

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to appoint Joseph Williams to the permanent position on the ZBA Board, was unanimously approved.

Edward Smith, correspondence to consider crosswalk signs

Warden Schefers will contact him and let him know we are addressing the existing, and adding possible new, signage.

Judith Hanratty, email concerning EV stations

The issue has been dropped from the agenda. One of the sites was St. Mary's and the church council has decided they don't want the liability. The service needs copper wiring in the amount of approximately \$250,000. EV stations in the Borough is on hold.

Elizabeth Bartholet, email for adequate lighting for walking at night

Main Street is a problem. The Board agrees that there is a need for more light and the sidewalks are a problem. Warden Schefers will ask Eversource if there is a charge for lights on poles and/or up-lighting and options for homeowners. Burgess Barnes asked about solar lights. Al Razzano recommended the lighting that was done at Watch Hill.

2022-2023 Borough Attorney fees

The first months of this year fees were not adequately billed in time to be included in the books for 2022-23.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, adjournment of the meeting at 8:14 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
September 26, 2023