

**Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
Regular Monthly Meeting – September 19, 2022  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Jeffrey Callahan 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 and also by way of Zoom conferencing video. Present in Borough Hall in addition to Warden Callahan were Burgesses Shaun Mastroianni, Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the regular meeting of August 15, 2022 were unanimously approved.

**PRESENTATION OF CLA STORM WATER REPORT**

Darren Hayward of CLA Engineers presented the report, titled “Borough of Stonington Drainage Mapping and Investigation”. CLA compiled data on 127 catch basins (91 belonging to the Borough), 26 drainage manholes (17 belonging to the Borough), 25 outfalls (17 belonging to the Borough), and 11,009 feet of drainage pipe (8,291 feet belonging to the Borough). Some Town-owned infrastructure was included in the report, because it ties into the Borough’s system.

Of the Borough’s 91 catch basins, 20 are in good condition, 50 are in good- to- fair condition, and 21 need attention.

Of the Borough’s 17 drainage manholes, 6 are in good condition, 9 are in good- to- fair condition and 2 could not be accessed to determine their condition. Covers are sealed shut.

Of the Borough’s 17 outfalls, 9 are in good condition, 3 are in fair condition, 2 are in poor condition and 3 could not be accessed to determine their condition.

CLA’s scope of work also included investigating three problematic drainage systems: Two catch basins near Borough Hall; catch basins and outfall near Dog Watch Café/Dodson’s Boat Yard; and the Water Street/Church Street/Cross Street (WCC) system. The CBs near Borough Hall, which are connected to each other, appear to be large dry wells; CLA could not find any connection to an outfall. Connecting these CBs to an outfall will be extremely expensive. The CB near Dog Watch had standing water in it, which hindered CLA’s ability to identify which outfall it is connected to. More investigation is required. The WCC system, which floods with increasing frequency, is the most problematic of the three CLA investigated. WCC has a single outfall. The basic problem is that it cannot cope with the amount of water that it receives during a significant storm, and the system backs up. CLA proposed four options for diverting some of the water to other outfalls. Warden Callahan mentioned that we have received an engineering services proposal from CLA to evaluate the effectiveness and cost of these four options. The Board will consider the proposal later in the meeting.

Burgess Rogers suggested we have an ordinance limiting driveway replacements be done with pervious surfaces only. Also, there was discussion of not allowing building additions on existing green areas in the future.

On the subject of infiltration pavement for Borough roadways, Mr. Hayward commented they cannot be sanded because the sand will clog the pervious pavement and negate its effectiveness.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Stonington Free Library, request for additional Open Mic event on 10/25/22
- b. Michelle Cady, revised request for Pup Fest on 10/01/22
- c. Child and Family Agency, notification of intent to postpone Fun Run to spring 2023
- d. Don Maranell, Chair of P&ZVC, request that Board consider adopting an ordinance banning cannabis retail operations in the Borough
- e. Susan Gallick, request for curb cut on High Street, near corner with Northwest Street
- f. Letter from Stonington Free Library thanking the Board for FY 22-23 funding
- g. Lissa van Dyke, letter opposing curb cut on High Street.
- h. Letter from Anna Bell McLanahan opposing curb cut on High Street.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bills for the period August 12, 2022 through September 16, 2022 totaled \$88,344. Large bills of note were annual maintenance of the fire trucks, CLA Engineers, LaGrua Center and Fire Department LAP premium. CLA invoices and LaGrua invoice were paid from ARPA funds. Net income for the current fiscal year through September 16, 2022 is \$769,588.

**WARDEN’S REPORT**

- 1. Attended SCCOG special meeting, REPT meeting, ADA meeting, all virtual.
- 2. Participated in Special Olympics opening ceremony and Holy Ghost procession.
- 3. Prepared and mailed fire district invoices for FY 22-23.
- 4. Local Covid statistics: New London County cumulative deaths now total 711. State and county positivity rate steady at 9-10%.
- 5. FY-22 audit process continues.
- 6. Reviewed CLA storm water system report and provided feedback to CLA.
- 7. Attended 9/11 commemoration at Point.
- 8. Attended meeting with Aquarion manager and residents concerned about sound coming from Summit Street water tower.

**BOROUGH CLOCK** – Nothing to report

**COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**

**Streets & Sidewalks** (Callahan)

- 1. Conducted monthly brush pickup.
- 2. Installed one-way signs and markings on Union Street
- 3. Painted yellow curbs
- 5. Mowed parks
- 6. Removed leaf grate from Harbor Edge outfall to improve flow

**Fire & Emergency Management** (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to 22 Alarms (four of which were marine calls) in August 2022, they were as follows:

- 1) 8-2-22 8:44pm Fire Alarm Activation 28 Harbor View Terrace (faulty detector)
- 2) 8-3-22 3:13am Fire Alarm Activation 40 Grand St. (cobwebs everywhere)
- 3) 8-5-22 9:12am Fire Alarm Activation 25 Hancox St. (faulty detector)
- 4) 8-6-22 10:29am Bon Fire on Sandy Pt. (Watch Hill FD responded)
- 5) 8-7-22 7:03pm Transformer Fire N Main @ Trumbull Ave. (EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 6) 8-9-22 9:07am Fire Alarm Activation 66 Main St. (faulty detector)
- 7) 8-9-22 4:30pm Structure Fire 348 N Main St. (electrical issues, smoke filling house)

- 8) 8-12-22 3:54pm MVA Elm St. @ Rt. 1 (no injuries)
- 9) 8-13-22 12:38pm MVA N Water @ Rt. 1 (1 injury to hospital, traffic)
- 10) 8-15-22 6:46am Medical assist with MRA 181 WAMP. Pt. Rd. (lift assist)
- 11) 8-15-22 4:11pm Medical assist with MRA 32 Water St. Ston. Commons (lift assist)
- 12) 8-15-22 4:31pm Medical assist with MRA 32 Water St. Ston. Commons (lift assist)
- 13) 8-15-22 9pm Medical assist with MRA 16 Ashworth Ave. LP (lift assist)
- 14) 8-17-22 3:58am Medical assist with SAC 5 Diving St. (lift assist)
- 15) 8-19-22 6:35am Medical assist with SAC 46 Trumbull Ave. (forcible entry, lift assist)
- 16) 8-20-22 7:43am Medical assist with SAC 32 Water St. (marine accident)
- 17) 8-20-22 9:22am Assist Ct. DEEP, US Coast Guard & SPD in logistics, securing scene & removing bodies with Ct. medical examiner after a boating accident (2 deceased)
- 18) 8-23-22 10:23am Wires down IFO 52 Briar Patch Rd. (Utility wires)
- 19) 8-23-22 9:16pm Tree limb & wires down IFO 913 Stonington Rd. (Weq. FD)
- 20) 8-27-22 11:19pm Medical assist with SAC 41 Orchard St. (lift assist)
- 21) 8-28-22 2:39pm Medical assist with SAC 32 Water St. (finger injury on a boat)
- 22) 8-31-22 3:39pm Wires down 66 Collins Rd. (EVERSOURCE enroute)

### **Police Incident Report (Nicholas)**

August incidents totaled 73 including 13 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 13 Check Building, 10 Medical Assists, 6 Burglar Alarms 3 of which were false, 4 Welfare Checks, 3 Assist Other Agency, 3 Animal Control, 3 Assist Citizen, 3 Patrol Requests, 2 911 Hang up/Misdial and 2 Fire Related calls. There was one incident each of Suspicious Activity, Hit and Run Accident, Serve Warrant, Marine Incident, Motorist Incident, Found Item, Key in Vehicle, Identity Theft, Minor Traffic Service, Scam and Vandalism.

There were three arrests, one related to a Motor Vehicle Complaint, one related to a Welfare Check and one related to the Warrant Served. Of note were the number of parking incidents and medical calls.

### **Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)**

Jeff and I walked around Wad Square with Megan Kacenski from Bartlett to evaluate the trees.

- The sugar maple on the southeast corner of the square is quickly deteriorating, and we determined that for safety reasons and the inevitability of the tree's demise, it should be removed. We will be planting another sugar maple to replace it.
- We added the very dead crab apple tree located just north of the sugar maple to the list of trees that should be removed. We are looking into planting a kousa dogwood to replace it.
- The copper beech tree to the east of the library is going to be removed. We think it might be replaced with a hornbeam.
- We will be planting an extra tree (possibly a redbud) on the western side of Wad Square in anticipation of the loss of other old trees that will need to come down in the coming years.
- Note: all of the trees will be replaced, but with which type depends on what is available and appropriate for each area. We are going to try to plant various types of trees rather than any one species.
- The beech ("climbing tree") to the west of the library entrance, and the small copper beech donated by Bill Morris will be treated with the experimental solution for beech leaf disease in hopes of saving those trees.

- This work is potentially scheduled to take place in early October, and new trees will be planted at the same time as removal of others. As planned in the spring, we will be planting a tree in front of 15 Elm Street; we are looking into the best species for the location.
- We evaluated a tree in front of the PHGS and determined that it is a healthy tree and may need some pruning in the spring.
- We did an emergency removal of a tree located on the northeast corner of Church and Main Streets. The tree began to fall over, but instead lost a large limb which fell across the sidewalk, partially on the fence of the neighboring property, and partially into Church Street. This halted the fall of the entire tree. Sue cleaned up the debris, and because Bartlett was in town on a job, they were able to evaluate the tree immediately, and we determined that it needed to come down asap. The tree was removed the next day.
- Trees were pruned away from 1 Harmony Street (at the intersection of Harmony and Water), and we are evaluating the health of a ginkgo tree in front of 168 and 170 Water Street.
- Jeff asked Sue to remove a small dead tree on Gold Street.

**Public Buildings (Mastroianni) – Nothing to report**

**Utilities & Sanitation (Rogers)**

Thank you to Burgess Nicholas for her assistance with a resident who was having a medical crisis. Six letters concerning trash being put out in yellow bags overnight were mailed out. Crandall gave his crew the day off for Labor Day, but they told the Town, not the Borough, so no refuse and recycling was picked up that day. Lots of emails concerning double poles, Teresa from Eversource was introduced to Parks, Trees and ROW commissioner Amanda Barnes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lissa Van Dyke spoke regarding the proposed curb cut on High Street, which was refused in 2013. There is a lot of commercial traffic now and there has been a bad accident in the area. Feels it is not necessary.

Several Gold Street residents were in attendance. Brought up the need to talk with neighbor(s) who take up two to three parking spaces and people parking at yellow lines. Warden Callahan will speak with them again.

Jean Fiore brought up the trash can at the flagpole at the Point, which she feels spoils the appearance of the memorial. It will be removed soon. She also feels that not all trees that are being removed on Wad Square should not be replaced, allowing more light to shine into the park.

Lori Hopkins Cavanaugh said that all burgesses and the CLA engineer report should have been visible on the Zoom meeting. Suggested the highway personnel put out cones on Water Street pre-storm. She brought up the problems to the neighborhood of Noah’s outside dining.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Status of COVID-19 in region and State**

See Warden’s Report above. Warden Callahan plans to drop this item from future agendas unless there is another Covid rebound this winter.

**Discuss memorial plaques, trees etc.**

United Church is coming up with a brick sidewalk project.

**Cannabis use on public/Borough property—No discussion**

**Union Street one-way update**

One Way markings are in place, sandwich board signs will continue for the short term.

**Consider ordinance enforcement mechanism ordinance.**

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to adopt SBO-27, "Ordinance Establishing a Citation Hearing Procedure", was unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider requests to use Borough property**

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the request by Stonington Free Library to hold a seasonal open-mic event on Wadawanuck Square on October 25, 2022 from 3:30 – 6:30 pm, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the request by Michelle Cady of Pup Stop to use Wadawanuck Square on October 1st from 10 am – 3 pm for vendors and a pup parade to start at 1 pm at Wad Square, was unanimously approved.

**Consider changing month of Borough election per PA 21-2**

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes to keep the Borough election in May of odd numbered years, was unanimously approved. The Board will consider placing a question regarding Borough elections on the May 2023 ballot.

**Consider removal of trees on Wadawanuck Square**

A motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to remove the sugar maple on the southeast corner of Wad Square, the dead crab apple tree located just north of the sugar maple and the copper beach tree to the east of the library entrance, was unanimously approved.

**Discuss adopting an ordinance regarding cannabis retail operations**

Warden Callahan will request the Borough attorney to start crafting an ordinance.

**Consider sole source procurement proposal from CLA for engineering findings**

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the sole-source proposal (\$12,500) from CLA Engineers to evaluate the cost and effectiveness of several options to improve the Water Street/Church Street/Cross Street drainage system, was unanimously approved.

**Consider High Street curb request**

After Warden Callahan recused himself, a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to deny the High Street curb cut request made by Susan Gallick, was unanimously approved.

**OTHER BUSINESS - None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Burgess Mastroianni, acting as chair, closed the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa M. Coleman  
October 7, 2022