

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting – November 15, 2021**

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 were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Shaun Mastroianni, and Amanda Barnes; and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the special meeting of October 16, 2021 amended to correct the spelling of Tagor Nicholas to Tyger and to move the sentence “Burgess Nicholas will discuss with Capt. Olson” from **Consider revised banner policy** to **Discuss installing temporary speed bump on Water Street**, were unanimously approved.

REPORT OF ADMINSTRATIVE ASSISTANT

A few returns from the recent mailing were received. Ann is working on both the mailing and email lists.

CORRESPONDENCE

BOROUGH PROPERTY USE REQUESTS: Matthew Ferrier, request to hold Cub Scout food drive on Wadawanuck Square

OTHER:

Richard Easton, letter expressing concern over congestion on Church Street

C.J. Bardy, request to create off street parking space at 19 Church Street

Stonington Free Library, copy of annual report

LaGrua Center, request for ARPA funding

SVIA, request for ARPA funding

MEETINGS: NONE

OUTGOING: Letter from Warden to residents.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER: None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period October 14, 2021, through November 10, 2021 totaled \$39,785.05. Large bills were O’Connor Davies for the FY-21 annual audit and plumbing services for Borough Hall drain cleanout. Net income as of November 10, 2021 (FY-22), is \$651,416.52.

WARDEN’S MONTHLY REPORT

1. Attended Town Hall department head meeting
2. New Borough website has gone live. Go to STONINGTONBOROUGHCT.GOV
3. Mailed/emailed update on Borough government activities to Borough residents
4. Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have remained in low 20’s, while total deaths have increased to 495. Stonington Town deaths are 41 and total cases equal 1434.
5. Continued working with FEMA to resolve concerns about one resident’s flood map revision request.

New, large capacity pump system has been installed.

6. Held public informational meeting about proposed comfort station on Saturday October 16 at firehouse. Applied for small grant from Rotary Club.
7. Met with Richard Easton and Calvary Church representatives to discuss Church Street parking.
8. Installed new notice board near footbridge
9. John Burke, traffic consultant, expects to complete draft report by end of November.
10. Met with Sergio Cherenzia to discuss study of Borough storm water system. He will submit proposal.
11. Submitted preliminary funding request (\$200 k) to CT Long Term Recovery Project.

BOROUGH CLOCK – Adjusted clock and lights for standard time

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

STREET & SIDEWALKS (CALLAHAN)

1. Conducted monthly brush pickup
2. Cleaned outfall at Harbor Edge
3. Cleaned up leaves on sections of Main and Water Streets and Wad Square
4. Mowed Borough parks for last time this season
5. Issued 0 dumpster permits

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NICHOLAS/HOADLEY)

During the month of October 2021 there were 66 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 10 Medical Assists, 9 Fire Related Calls, 5 Business/Building Checks, 5 Suspicious Activities, 3 Parking Complaints, 2 Welfare Checks, 2 Assist Citizens, 2 Animal Control, 2 Accidents neither with injuries, 2 911 Misdiagnoses/Hang ups and 2 Found Items There was one incident each of Lost Item, Open Door/Window, Disturbance, Assist Other Agency, Animal Bite, Suspicious Motor Vehicle, Larceny, Threatening, Trespass, Nuisance, Minor Traffic Service and a False Burglar Alarm.

There was one arrest related to one of the Suspicious Activities.

I spoke to Chief Stewart and Captain Olson regarding speed bumps which they strongly oppose. Burgess Nicholas will forward to the Board a letter from Chief Stewart.

Fire

SBFD responded to 15 Alarms in October 2021, 13 of which were in the Borough. They were as follows:

- 1) 10-1-21 7:40am 2 car MVA Elm St. @ Rt. 1 (no injuries)
- 2) 10-4-21 11:04am MV Fire 119 Elm St. (fully involved)
- 3) 10-4-21 2:23pm Wires down 16 Cutler St. (Comcast)
- 4) 10-5-21 8:07am Fire Alarm Activation 72 Water St. NESS (worker)
- 5) 10-9-21 11:53pm Fire Alarm Activation 32 Water St. SC (dry sprinkler alarm)
- 6) 10-10-21 9:10am Fire Alarm Activation 32 Water St. SC (accidental)
- 7) 10-12-21 5:58pm Fire Alarm Activation 142 Water St. Milagro's (smoke, cooking)
- 8) 10-13-21 10:56am Fire Alarm Activation 25 High St. (worker)
- 9) 10-18-21 8:52am Fire Alarm Activation 32 Water St. SC (workers)
- 10) 10-19-21 3:48am Fire Alarm Activation 32 Water St. (dry sprinkler alarm)
- 11) 10-20-21 3:09pm Fire Alarm Activation 13 E Grand St. (shower steam)
- 12) 10-20-21 4:29pm 1 vehicle MVA IFO 530 Stonington Rd. (Rt.1) (front tire fell off a truck)
- 13) 10-23-21 1:34pm Medical Assist with SAC IFO 7 Elihu St. (child with foot caught in the spoke of a

bicycle)

14) 10-26-21 11:46am Wires down 4 Grand St. (Frontier)

15) 10-31-21 5:17pm Fire Alarm Activation 40 Palmer St. SHS (fog machine, Halloween party)

Hose testing will be held on November 22nd at the Borough Firehouse.

I have been in contact with Lisa Konicki of the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce about the construction of the lobster traps and buoys holiday tree next week. It will be 30 feet tall.

Brad Painter advised against installing a permanent holiday tree at the fire house. He advised a way of putting a temporary tree in the island at the firehouse.

We had 10 calls this past Friday and Saturday from storms. There was a tornado in Pawcatuck. We lost another light pole on the viaduct. Chief advises that the light poles be replaced. They have been there for over 30 years. Warden Callahan will contact Barbara McKrell again.

PARKS, TREES & RIGHT OF WAY (BARNES)

Have received Chief Hoadley's letter regarding the removal of the plane tree on Denison Ave. The large maple tree on Southeast corner of Wad. Square will be evaluated in the spring.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (MASTROIANNI): None

UTILITIES & SANITATION (ROGERS)

Six letters regarding trash this week.

Board members have heard complaints that trash pick-up has been earlier again.

The artist who is designing the trash pick-up banner has postponed the design; it will be ready before next summer.

Several redundant utility poles have been removed.

PUBLIC COMMENT : None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status of COVID-19 in region and State

See the Warden's report above.

Discuss potential uses of ARPA funds

Will be taken up under New Business

Cannabis use on public/Borough property

Nothing new to report. Warden is discussing with Borough Atty. Zoning Commission is considering implications of new state statute on Borough regulations.

Borough traffic and parking

John Burke, traffic consultant, expects to complete draft report by end of November.

Discuss venue for next W&B meeting

In person meetings with masks will be continued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider revised banner policy

Tabled for further discussion at next meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Consider requests to use Borough property

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve Matthew Ferrier's request to use Wadawanuck Square on Saturday, November 20 from noon to 3 pm for the Cub Scout food drive, passed unanimously.

Consider revision to SBO-04 – Off Street Parking

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the proposed revisions to SBO-04 – Off Street parking, passed unanimously. The revision requires that the off-street parking space(s) have a permeable surface.

Consider a request to create off street parking at 19 School Street

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve a request to create Off Street parking at 19 School Street, passed unanimously.

Consider W&B regular meeting schedule for 2022

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the W&B regular meeting schedule for 2022, passed unanimously.

Consider resolution regarding Homeland Security Grants

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve a resolution authorizing Warden Callahan to execute an MOA with CT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, passed unanimously.

Consider reappointing Don Maranell to Planning & Zoning Commission

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to reappoint Don Maranell to the Borough Planning & Zoning Commission, passed unanimously.

Consider additional ARPA fund appropriations

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to adopt five ARPA funding categories, namely: Borough staff and volunteer stipends, Infrastructure, Local Not-for-Profit support, Business district support, and Parks improvements, passed unanimously. Allocation of funds to each category will be decided at a future meeting. Warden Callahan will send an email to all Borough groups inviting them to submit grant requests by January 10th.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

Warden Callahan participated in a Zoom meeting and spoke with SCCOG members regarding short term rentals. The consensus was to deal with this through ordinance, not zoning. This is a very complicated issue and the Borough must approach it with care. The warden will discuss with the Borough Atty.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 8:30 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
November 26, 2021