

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Special Monthly Meeting – Sept. 13, 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, Amanda Barnes, and Shaun Mastroianni, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the regular meeting of August 16, 2021, were unanimously approved.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ann is working on the new website. There is a search function on the website now.

CORRESPONDENCE

BOROUGH PROPERTY USE REQUESTS:

None

OTHER:

Email from Sharon Lynch regarding skunks.

John Burke – fully executed agreement for parking and traffic study

MEETINGS: NONE

OUTGOING: NONE

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period August 13, 2021, through September 9, 2021 totaled \$73,419.63. Large bills --\$10,000 to Stonington Volunteer Ambulance, annual contribution to retirement fund for firefighters, ARPA payment to architect for comfort station. Net income as of Sept 9, 2021 (FY-22), is \$748,643.84.

WARDEN'S MONTHLY REPORT

1. Attended Town Hall department head meeting
2. New Borough website has gone live. Go to STONINGTONBOROUGHCT.GOV
3. Waldron-Williams Funds merger: Fund is now incorporated in CT. Caroline Muller is President, Michael Schefers is Treasurer and Jeff Callahan is Secretary. This is the last month the two funds will be reported separately in the Account Balances.
4. Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have spiked to 30 +/-, while total deaths have increased to 456. Stonington Town deaths are 32 and total cases equal 1268.

5. Continued working with FEMA to resolve concerns about one resident's flood map revision request.
6. Held two more meetings of comfort station (public bathroom) committee. Plan to hold public informational meeting on Saturday morning October 16 at firehouse.
7. Disbursed ARPA check to LLHD
8. Took two-day CRS online course.
9. Mailed invoices for outer fire districts/associations that contract with SBFD, received two payments so far.
10. Purchased laptop PC for office
11. Arranged for repair of Wad Square granite plinth by Buzzi Memorials
12. Welcomed special Olympians to Borough on Saturday 9/11

BOROUGH CLOCK – None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

STREET & SIDEWALKS (CALLAHAN)

1. Conducted monthly brush pickup
2. Aquarion contractor is investigating small sink hole at corner of Cutler and Elm
3. Swept parts of Main and Water Streets
4. Mowed Borough parks
5. Issued 2 dumpster permits

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NICHOLAS/HOADLEY)

During the month of August 2021 there were 71 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 13 Animal Control Incidents with 9 of them occurring on Front Street, 8 Fire Related Calls, 7 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 7 Medical Assists, 4 Accidents including 2 hit and runs, 4 Suspicious Activities, 4 911 Misdials, 3 Business/Building Checks, 2 Open Window, 2 Found Item, 2 Assist Citizen and 2 Burglar Alarm both of which were false. There was one incident each of Disabled Motor Vehicle, Alarm not Registered, Ambulance Stand by, Criminal Mischief, Driving While Intoxicated, Assist Citizen, Red Tag, Minor Traffic Service, Larceny, Red Tag, Assist Other Agency, Nuisance, Welfare Check and Keys in Vehicle.

There were two arrests. One for a hit and run accident and the other for Driving While Intoxicated.

Of note, again this month, were the animal control incidents (dog park?) on Front Street.

Fire

SBFD responded to 16 Alarms in August 2021, they were as follows:

- 1) 8-1-21 10:01pm Fire Alarm Activation 16 Church St. (faulty smoke detector)
- 2) 8-4-21 3:54pm Oil spill in water 70-72 Water St. NESS (oil was disbursing)
- 3) 8-5-21 5:56pm Tree on power lines Rt.1 @ Collins Rd. (EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 4) 8-6-21 6:04pm Oil spill in water 32 Water St. Stonington Commons (called Ct. DEEP)
- 5) 8-9-21 10:50am Fire Alarm Activation 166 Water St. (burnt food)
- 6) 8-14-21 3:19pm MVA IFO 26 Main St. Portuguese Club (fluid spill)
- 7) 8-16-21 8:57am Fire Alarm Activation 42 Quana duck Rd. (workers)
- 8) 8-16-21 10:28am Fire Alarm Activation 29 Gold St. (faulty detector)
- 9) 8-16-21 6:33pm Fire Alarm Activation 16 Water St. (burnt food)
- 10) 8-22-21 4:50am Arcing wires next to footbridge (nothing found)
- 11) 8-22-21 6:16pm Medical assist with SAC 3rd floor 117 Water St. (1 person to hospital)
- 12) 8-26-21 12:42pm Fire Alarm Activation 45 Boulder Ave. L.P. (faulty detector)
- 13) 8-27-21 10:05pm Explosion 176 Water St. (fireworks town dock)

- 14) 8-28-21 6:33pm Fire Alarm Activation 107 Water St. (oven fire)
- 15) 8-29-21 3:06pm Rescue from a boat, 194 Water St. Dodson's (man fallen in engine room)
- 16) 8-29-21 6:52pm Power lines burning 9 South St. (EVERSOURCE enroute)

Chief will call Brad Painter to plant a pine tree in the middle of the island, between the two birch trees. There are trees that need to be trimmed around the firehouse. Chief brought up the tree and its roots on Denison Avenue as part of the repaving. A thank you note written by Chief Hoadley on behalf of the officers and members of the SBFd for the \$250 stipends given to the members from the ARPA funds was read aloud.

PARKS, TREES & RIGHT OF WAY (BARNES)

The tree on the southeast corner of Wad Square is being watched and there are other trees that need to be scheduled for replacement. Burgess Barnes will come up with a one-to-three-year plan for replacements. The Bradford Pear at the end of the footbridge that went down during the storm is being considered for replacement.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (MASTROIANNI)

None

UTILITIES & SANITATION (ROGERS)

Fifteen letters were issued for trash. Warden Callahan will meet with the Borough attorney about ticketing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Doug Mola voiced his support of the chief's request to have the tree on Denison Avenue removed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status of COVID-19 in region and State

See the Warden's report above.

Resident survey results

Burgess Rogers and Burgess Mastroianni presented amended survey results that will be put on the website. The action plan is still being worked on.

Cannabis use on public property

As of Oct 1, municipalities can pass ordinances on the use of cannabis on public property. The Town of Stonington is holding a referendum on October 5 to address these issues. No action was taken. Discussion to be continued.

Borough traffic and parking

Mr. Burke has returned the contract. Burgess Rogers will contact Mr. Burke on when the work will begin.

Update on Public Restrooms/Comfort Station

Two committee meetings have been held, with one more meeting scheduled on Thursday, Sept 30. A public information session is to be held on October 16 at 10 am at the firehouse to allow the public to see the results of the committee's efforts. The design work cost is being split with SVIA.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider requests to use Borough property

None

Discuss potential uses of ARPA funds

There are four general approved categories for the use of ARPA funds. The Warden and Burgesses will bring their ideas to the October meeting for discussion.

Consider Stonington COMO request for \$10,000 towards the engineering for Phase 1 Project

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to award the Stonington Community Center \$10,000 from ARPA toward the \$14,500 fee for engineering services to upgrade HVAC (including air filtration) for the COMO auditorium and gym, passed unanimously.

Re-consider appropriating ARPA funds to Arts and/or other not-for-profits

Tabled

Discuss skunk problem

An email from Sharon Lynch was received by the Warden regarding skunks in general; she noted that her dog was sprayed. In response, the problem is the trash and residents feeding wildlife and/or their own pets. Warden Callahan will draft wording for a banner with input from Burgess Rogers.

Discuss venue for future W&B meetings

Meetings will continue to be held at Borough Hall with masks required and via ZOOM meetings.

Per SBO-11, consider waiving bid requirement and awarding Denison Ave paving to Hastedt Bros.

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Warden Callahan, to waive the bid requirement (per SBO-11) and award the paving contract of Denison Ave. to Hastedt Bros., passed unanimously.

Clarification that the Fire Chief needs to put in writing his request to the Tree Commissioner that the tree on Denison Avenue be removed. Warden Callahan will inform him.

Discussion about the Right-trees program (Is that the way it is spelled?) brought up by Sharon Lynch. It is time intensive and full participation of the Board is not possible.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
September 17, 2021