

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Special Monthly Meeting – October 16, 2021**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the Special meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at 10:02 a.m. The meeting was held at Borough Fire House and also by way of Zoom conferencing video. Present were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Shaun Mastroianni (via Zoom), and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman.

PRESENTATION BY JULIA LEEMING ON COMFORT STATION

Architect Julia Leeming has been meeting with committee members Jeff Callahan, Kevin Rogers, Amy Nicholas, Micayla Hall from SFL, Janet Vaskas representing SVIA, Deb Norman from SBMA, Jim Quinn representing St. Mary Church and Jean Fiore for several months. The first step was to select a suitable site; only properties owned by the Borough, Town, or SVIA were considered. Sites considered were the playground at the Town Docks; the old bathrooms at the sewer plant; Wayland's Wharf; and SVIA-owned land at the Point. All of these locations are in the flood plain. They would require long ramps for universal access.

Areas outside of the flood plain that were evaluated are Cannon Square, the western edge of LaGrua Park, Wimpheimer Park, Borough Hall, and Wadawanuck Square. The committee decided that the most appropriate of these locations is the northern end of Wadawanuck Square, behind the library, facing St. Mary Church and the Post Office. This location is one of the highest elevations in the Village, and it doesn't have residences close by. Further, a number of community events, some of which draw large crowds, take place on Wad Square throughout the year.

The design includes 2 unisex family restrooms with a mechanical room between them, drinking fountains and benches. There are architectural nods to the library's clerestory windows and bricks and the granite curbs of Wad Square. The design features a whitish brick that is consistent with the post office and church.

Resident Pam Mola questioned why Borough Hall was not considered. It was, and the basic reason it was not selected is that there is no available space other than the first floor bathroom that is used by the highway crew. Providing ADA-compliant access to that bathroom while ensuring adequate security for the rest of the building would be extremely difficult. The time to do this would have been when the elevators were installed. Another factor we considered is that there are residences close by, and those owners would likely strenuously object.

Tyger Nicholas questioned if the entrances to restrooms will be visible to the residential properties. Julia responded that this is unlikely given the existing large trees and additional plantings to be part of the project.

Jack Lynch asked questions about privacy of people coming in and out the entrances, vandalism concerns, and the cost to operate the comfort station.

The presentation part of the meeting was closed. After a break, Warden Callahan called the meeting back in session at 11:20 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the special meeting of September 13, 2021 were unanimously approved.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ann continues to work on the new website and compiling mailing lists.

CORRESPONDENCE

BOROUGH PROPERTY USE REQUESTS:

SVIA, request to use Wad Square.

PHGS, request to reserve parking for the October fish fries.

Stonington Garden Club, triennial garden tour June 10-11, 2022.

COMO, letter thanking the Borough for ARPA funds.

MEETINGS: NONE

OUTGOING: NONE

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period September 10, 2021 through October 14, 2021 totaled \$124,566.68. Net income as of October 14, 2021 (FY-22), is \$714,673.07.

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. All Williams Fund monies have been deposited in the new joint Waldron-Williams bank account at Dime.
4. Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have remained in high 20's – low 30's, while total deaths have increased to 488. Stonington Town deaths are 41 and total cases equal 1347.
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 two more meetings of comfort station (public bathroom) committee. Scheduled to hold public informational meeting on Saturday morning October 16 at firehouse.
7. Submitted CIP request (\$50 k) to Town for comfort station funding
8. Delayed Denison Ave paving until spring in order to sort out fate of large plane tree
9. All fire district payments received
10. Met with John Burke, traffic consultant. He is collecting information.
11. Met with Sergio Cherenzia to discuss study of Borough storm water system. He will submit proposal.
12. Attended Harbor Management Commission meeting in Borough Hall
13. Submitted preliminary funding request (\$200 k) to CT Long Term Recovery Project

The Borough just received recycling bin and the warden asked Sanitation Commissioner Burgess Rogers to find a suitable location on Water Street.

BOROUGH CLOCK – None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

STREET & SIDEWALKS (CALLAHAN)

1. Conducted monthly brush pickup
2. Aquarion repaired small sink hole at corner of Cutler and Elm
3. Cleaned up leaves on sections of Main and Water Streets
4. Mowed Borough parks
5. Issued 0 dumpster permits

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NICHOLAS/HOADLEY)

During the month of September 2021 there were 56 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 8 Fire Related Calls, 8 Medical Assists, 5 Assist Citizens, 4 Welfare Checks, 3 Burglar Alarms 2 of which were false, 3 Animal Control, 2 Accidents including 1 hit and run, 2 Suspicious Activities, 2 911 Misdiagnoses, 2 Business/Building Checks, 2 Abandoned Vehicles and 2 Parking Complaints. There was one incident each of Found Item, Juvenile, Marine Incident, Scam Against Elderly, Disabled Motor Vehicle, Larceny, Tow, Open Door Window, Escort, Threatening, Patrol Request, Nuisance and Keys in Vehicle.

Fire

We responded to 12 Alarms in September 2021; they were as follows:

- 1) 9-1-21 11:31pm Wires arcing & burning 31-33 Bayview Ave. (EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 2) 9-2-21 2:43am Box Alarm 22 Bayview Ave. Velvet Mill (nothing found)
- 3) 9-2-21 5:48am Water Emergency 118 Water St. (pumped 1ft. from basement)
- 4) 9-2-21 3:12pm Water Emergency 11 Walnut St. L.P. (pumped 1ft. From basement)
- 5) 9-7-21 5:48pm Medical Assist with SAC 5 Diving St. (lift assist)
- 6) 9-13-21 1:33pm Smoke Detector sounding 1 Cross St. (nothing found)
- 7) 9-16-21 12:47pm Car Fire IFO 95 Main St. (steam from a broken hose)
- 8) 9-17-21 10:01am Odor of Propane Gas 219 N Water St. (called Spicer Gas)
- 9) 9-22-21 1:47pm Fire Alarm Activation 32 Water St. Ston. Commons (nothing found)
- 10) 9-24-21 2:27am Fire Alarm Activation 32 Water St. Ston. Commons (nothing found)
- 11) 9-24-21 4:24pm Box Alarm 32 Water St. Ston. Commons (dry sprinkler activation)
- 12) 9-29-21 5:50am Box Alarm 32 Water St. Ston. Commons (dry sprinkler activation)

Some of the calls were Storm Ida related basement pump outs.

PARKS, TREES & RIGHT OF WAY (BARNES)

The warden reported that Bartlett trimmed trees at FD, overhang on Water Street and Wadawanuck Square trees.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (MASTROIANNI)

Superior Sewer and Drain will be completing a project at Borough Hall to fix a clogged pipe that is under the concrete driveway at a cost of \$5k. \$2,300 over budget for the maintenance of Borough Hall.

UTILITIES & SANITATION (ROGERS)

A resident in the Borough has been in touch with Burgess Rogers about the double utility poles. The poles are all logged in and on Eversource's schedule to be removed. There will be a banner to be hung on the Firehouse regarding trash ordinance. Burgess Rogers to send draft to Warden Callahan

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Pam Mola asked that a recycling bin be at Wad Square facing Indulge coffee shop. Burgess Nicholas made a comment that Phoenix did a great job by himself while Sue was away. Resident Doug Mola asked if the Board would look into using ARPA funds for an engineering assessment of the footbridge. Warden Callahan said that was a good idea.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status of COVID-19 in region and State

See the Warden's report above.

Discuss potential uses of ARPA funds

Doug Mola's suggestion regarding the footbridge.

Review of stormwater concerns in the Borough and the catch basins and outfalls in particular. Comfort station.

The breakwater off Monsanto in the harbor. Price tag was \$5 million to rebuild it.

All Burgesses will bring their ideas to the next meeting.

Cannabis use on public/Borough property

It's the sense of the Board to have Warden Callahan talk with the Borough attorney about revising SBO-08 to prohibit cannabis use on Borough owned property and sidewalks.

Borough traffic and parking

Awaiting John Burke's draft report. A public presentation will be made in the future

Discuss venue for future W&B meetings

Meetings will continue to be held at Borough Hall with masks required and Zoom backup.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider requests to use Borough property

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve PHGS application to use 3 to 4 parking spaces in front of 26 Main St (PHGS) on Fridays only from 10/1/2021 to 11/8/2021 for take-out orders for fish and chips, passed unanimously.

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve Stonington Garden Club use of Wadawanuck Square for the triennial garden tour to be held on June 10-11, 2022, pending receipt of Certificate of Insurance, passed unanimously.

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve SVIA's use of Wadawanuck Square and Water Street (to Cannon Square) for the Annual Borough Tree Lighting and Holiday Stroll on December 3, 2021 from 5:30 – 8 p.m., passed unanimously.

Discuss allowing cannabis establishments in the Borough

The consensus was to watch what the Town of Stonington is doing, how restrictive the zoning regulations are, then perhaps write an ordinance. In the meantime, revise zoning regulations to address cannabis retail operations.

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

Tabled to next meeting

Discuss installing temporary speed bump on Water Street

Tabled to future meeting. Burgess Nicholas will discuss with Capt Olson.

Consider revised banner policy

Tabled to next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, adjournment of the meeting at 12:20 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman

October 25, 2021