

**Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
Regular Monthly Meeting – June 21, 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 by way of Zoom conferencing video. Participating were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, and Shaun Mastroianni. Burgess Amanda Barnes was not in attendance. Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman took minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 17, 2021, were unanimously approved as submitted.

**REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Dealing with Borough website problems  
Collecting surveys

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Noah's Restaurant—Continued outdoor dining through March 2022  
Carolyn Yost—Continued sidewalk retail through March 2022 at 148 Water St  
PHGS—Reserved parking for takeout, Friday afternoon/evenings July 16-Aug 13  
SBMA—Art walk with sidewalk retail, Saturday Sept 18  
COMO—Five food trucks at Village Fair, Aug 7

MEETINGS: NONE

**OTHER:**

Letter from John Adams noting inappropriate activities in Robinson Burial Ground.  
Email request for Borough endorsement of Lighthouse restoration project.

**REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER**

Attended one of the two meetings of the combined Waldron-Williams Fund boards.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bills for the period May 12, 2021 through June 16, 2021 totaled \$115,103.71. Net income as of June 15, 2021 is \$291,188.32. Warden Callahan projects a year-end surplus of about \$100,000.

**WARDEN'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Participated in Zoom with SCCOG and local health districts

Dealing with Borough website problems. Current hosting service is unresponsive.

Worked on Waldron-Williams Funds merger. Borough Atty is in the process of filing for incorporation in CT

Most Governor's Executive Orders expired on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have dropped to low single digits, while total deaths have risen very slightly to 450. Stonington Town, which include the Borough, deaths are 31 and total cases equal 1122.

Continued working with FEMA to resolve concerns about one resident's flood map revision request.

Survey field work of Wad Square conducted in late May

Registered the Borough with SAM, the federal online system for applying for grants, which is necessary in order to receive ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

Established ARPA account with state; submitted application for Borough grant allotment (\$262 K over two years) to CT OPM. The Act specifies eight categories of eligible uses for money. It cannot be used to reduce local taxes. There are rigorous recording keeping and reporting requirements; first report due to Treasury by October 31st. All funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026.

Harald Hefel began repointing south-facing seawall at Wayland's Wharf.

Participated (with Shaun and Amy) in meeting about establishing cultural districts in the Town/Borough of Stonington.

BOROUGH CLOCK – None

#### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

##### **STREET & SIDEWALKS (CALLAHAN)**

Conducted monthly brush pickup. Tuesday July 6<sup>th</sup> will be the next brush pickup.

Power washed and painted Wayland's Wharf pavilion

Filled potholes

Painted crosswalks and added more directional arrows/signs on lower Water Street

Issued 3 dumpster permits

##### **FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NICHOLAS/HOADLEY)**

During the month of May 2021 there were 52 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 8 Medical Assists, six 911 Misdials/Hang ups, 5 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 5 Animal Control/Issues including one Dead/Injured Animal, 4 Accidents No Injury, 4 Business/Building Checks, 4 Assist Citizen, 2 Fire Related calls, 2 Burglar Alarms both of which were false, 2 Nuisance and 2 Larceny calls. There was one incident each of Welfare Check, Trespass, Forgery, Found item, Keys in Vehicle, Harassment, Sex Offense, and Transportation.

The CSOs have begun patrolling: 12-5, daily.

#### **Fire**

5-1-21 12:37pm Responded with SAC to 5 Water St. for an unconscious man in a boat (revived and transported to hospital)

5-8-21 5:05pm Windsurfer in distress, Stonington Point (windsurfer not in distress & was fine)

5-10-21 2:50pm Fire Alarm activation 117 Water St. (defective alarm detector)  
5-30-21 3:28pm Wire down IFO 8 Cutler St. (cable wire, notified Comcast)  
5-30-21 4:02pm Sewerage coming from a manhole cover IFO 4 Skipper St. Lords Pt. (Called Suez  
to respond)  
5-30-21 6:03pm Fire Alarm activation 11 Shore Dr. (burnt popcorn)

Speed sign has been purchased and will be put at the corner of Main and High Street first.

### **PARKS, TREES & RIGHT OF WAY (BARNES)**

Bartlett has done some pruning at Wad Square and it was discovered that we have beech flies and the trees have been treated.

### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS (MASTROIANNI)**

None

### **UTILITIES & SANITATION (ROGERS)**

Have sent emails to Eversource contact, but has had no reply regarding redundant poles. Warden Callahan will contact her and ask her to contact Burgess Rogers. Have gone through sections of the Borough and have given out 9 notices regarding putting out trash the night before pickup.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Doug Mola asked about the status of the granite stones at the crosswalk of Union Street East. They were removed during the paving to get the pitch correct for the paving. They will be returned. There are only enough stones to cover two-thirds of the double width cross walk, but there are enough to have one row in the crosswalk.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

The numbers look good in the region and State. Positivity rates consistently less than 1%. Very few new hospitalizations.

#### **Resident survey status**

Approximately 600 surveys went out, still working on the mailing list. Hope to get a good return and develop a good email list. Forty-five have been returned. Deadline has been extended to July 1, 2021.

#### **Update on Open Burning Ordinance**

(Chief Hoadley was out on a call during this part of the meeting.) Warden Callahan stated that since the ordinance would only apply to the Borough, where open burning is very rare, and would not apply in other fire districts that SBFDD covers under contract, he and the Chief have decided not to pursue drafting an ordinance. The chief/fire marshal will rely on State regulations to enforce open burning regulation in the Borough fire marshal's jurisdiction. Chief Hoadley will draft an ordinance for fire pits, grills, barbecue pits, etc.

#### **Lower Water Street/Borough traffic and parking**

Initially, Warden Callahan asked Burgesses Rogers and Mastroianni to have a larger study done including traffic flow, parking and stripping. Warden Callahan, as the Street Commissioner, has asked Burgess Rogers to sign the contract with Boundaries LLC to complete the Phase I Feasibility Plan. Callahan and Rogers will meet with John Burke, traffic engineer, on July 13.

**Update on public restrooms; consider appointing building committee.**

SVIA and the Borough government have been talking about how to build public restrooms in the Borough. The site that has been preliminarily agreed on is Wad Square behind the library, facing St. Mary's. A building committee will include SVIA, Library, SSBA, St. Mary's, and others. There will be many discussions before anything is decided.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the formation of a Public Restroom Building Committee, was unanimously approved. The specific membership will be discussed at the July meeting. Burgess Nicholas volunteered to be on the committee.

**Consider appointing a member of the Board to be a trustee of the combined Waldron-Williams Fund when established.**

In order to progress with incorporation of the combined Waldron-William Fund, the combined boards elected an initial set of officers. Caroline Muller is president, Warden Callahan is secretary, and Michael Schefers is treasurer. No action is required by the Board of Warden & Burgesses.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider requests to use Borough property:**

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society's use of 3-4 parking spaces in front of 26 Main Street for curbside pickup and takeout during summer food sessions on Friday evenings, 4-8 pm, July 16<sup>th</sup>-August 13, 2021, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the COMO's use of Main Street along Wadawanuck Square for up to five food trucks during the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Faire on August 7, 2021, from 11 am to 4 pm was approved by majority. Burgess Mastroianni abstained.

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Warden Callahan, to approve the Stonington Borough Merchants Association use of sidewalks in front of stores and restaurants for artist displays on Saturday Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from 10 am-3 pm, was unanimously approved. Permission was granted for small, open tents to be used to protect the artists and art, with the condition that they leave a four-foot corridor for pedestrians and that the tent structures be approved by the sidewalk commissioner.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve Carolyn Yost's use of the sidewalk in front of her store, located at 148 Water Street, was unanimously approved. Her outdoor tables and displays must be positioned per the diagram she submitted to the Board, showing a four-foot corridor for pedestrians. In addition, the plant wrapped around the sign pole is to be removed.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve Noah's Restaurant proposal for outdoor dining (per the drawings submitted) was unanimously approved through July 31, 2021. Owner Andrew Field agreed to come to Warden Callahan prior to the July 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, with a plan of how he would execute closing off a small part of Church Street to accommodate continued outdoor dining. The plan must address number and arrangement of tables, barriers, delivery trucks, impacts on Church Street neighbors, etc.

Prior to voting on the motion, there was discussion regarding State rights of way and how Special Act 21-3 applies to Church Street. Warden Callahan pointed out that Special Act 21-3, which addresses outdoor dining and retail regulation, differentiates between local streets and State rights of way. Resident Lisa Tepper Bates spoke about the neighbors' feeling that the outside dining brings a nice element of life and support of business and that she finds it inconceivable that Special Act 21-3 is

intended to prevent use of local streets for outside dining. She suggested that the Borough government speak with their attorney.

Chief Hoadley, who had returned to the meeting, is not opposed to closing that part of Church Street; it would not cause him hardship with the firetrucks.

**Consider end of year budget adjustments**

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Warden Callahan, to approve end-of year budget adjustments (Charter chapter 8, section e): \$4,000 from line 130 to line 125; \$6,000 from line 1301 to line 305; \$5,000 from line 205 to line 317; \$6,000 from line 257 to line 317; \$3,000 from line 1301 to line 317; \$3,000 from line 342 to line 317 (Total \$17k to 317); \$4,000 from line 612 to line 605; \$3,000 from line 656 to line 658; \$10,000 from line 612 to Wayland’s Wharf Fund; \$15,000 from line 1301 to Infrastructure Fund; \$2,000 from line 1301 to Fire Dept Major Expense Fund, was unanimously approved.

**Consider revisions to SBO-04 (Off Street Parking), SBO-08 (Public Property) and SBO-18 (Demolition Notice)**

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve changes to SBO-04 (Off Street Parking), SBO-08 (Public Property), and SBO-18 (Ordinance Requiring Notice of Demolition of Certain Buildings), was unanimously approved. Details of the changes will be contained in a public notice in The Day newspaper.

**Endorsement of the Lighthouse project**

Was deferred without a vote due to concerns about potential conflict with the Borough’s ongoing regulatory role.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION -- None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:40 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa M. Coleman  
June 28, 2021