

Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
February 18, 2025  
MEETING MINUTES

Warden Michael Schefers called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was held at Borough Firehouse and via telephone. Present, in addition to Warden Schefers were Burgesses Kevin Rogers, Amy Nicholas, and Amanda Barnes. Burgess Kevin Bowdler was absent. Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman was in attendance via telephone. Approximately 10 members of the public were present.

Warden and Burgesses gave the financial, commission and project reports and received public comment. Votes were deferred to a Special Meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2025, at noon due to a concern about FOIA meeting notice requirements.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

RECEIVED:

Stonington Garden Club event application walking tour  
Blessing of the Fleet 5K Race Event application  
Ian Cooke Application to plant area  
PHGS event application(s) for parking  
SBMA Art Walk application  
Jerry Donovan email regarding Stop Sign/Parking request.  
Email from Karen von-Ruffer Miles regarding CT Main St.  
Main Street

**REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER**

SOTS says we need to have 2 weeks of early voting. Nothing has been heard from Nick Kepple regarding early voting draft to SOTS. Election is May 5, 2025.

**REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT; ARPA UPDATE**

Proposal from Kevin Rogers to pursue air conditioning for the Borough Firehouse will be postponed until next year's budget. Two new computers were bought for Warden and Ann.

Bills for the period January 17, 2025, through February 12, 2025, totaled \$64,295.34. Large bills of note were the new computers and cleaning of Borough Hall after the Public Restroom construction. I&E for July 2024 through February 12, 2025, shows total income to date of \$1,454,015.56; and net income to date of \$444,330.84. Balance of ARPA funds is \$4,352.

**WARDEN'S REPORT**

Discussed with First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough on shared local items of interest.

Submitted MS-4 (Storm Drains) data and information requirements to Town Engineer for annual report

Attended SCCOG January Meeting.

Attended SEAT January Board Meeting.

Met with and reviewed "CT Main Street" report and recommendations with SBMA.

Reviewed actions necessary to open Borough Hall restrooms to the public.

Submitted FEMA (CRS) Elevation Certificates required for Insurance Recertification

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

#### **Streets & Sidewalks (Scheffers)**

Conducted monthly brush pickup.

Conducted equipment maintenance activities at Borough Garage.

Conducted final pickup of Christmas Trees

Conducted street and sidewalk snow removal

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

SBFD Responded to 8 Alarms in January 2025, they were as follows:

- 1) 1-2-25 6:14pm Fire Alarm Activation 5 Omega St. (nothing found)
- 2) 1-3-25 5:53pm Odor of Gas 15 Grand St. (fan motor in basement burning up)
- 3) 1-6-25 12:08pm Brush Fire 4 Hillcrest Dr. (ashes dumped from a wood stove)
- 4) 1-8-25 10:26am CO Detector Activation 193 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd. (no readings, resident ill)
- 5) 1-8-25 10:25pm Wires down Oak Dr. @ N. Main St. (utility wire)
- 6) 1-21-25 2:56pm Medical Assist with SAC 312 Flanders Rd. (lift assist)
- 7) 1-23-25 9:50am Fire Alarm Activation 170 Water St. (broken water fitting in dishwasher)
- 8) 1-23-25 12:18pm Fire Alarm Activation 170 Water St. (re setting alarm system)

There was an accident this week on North Main St. across from the big hedge. A dump truck with 25 tons of salt and sand overturned. There has been a concern and in 2004 guardrails that were never put up was discussed at that time.

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

I have attended one meeting of the Special Events commission, Jamie Lewis sat in on second meeting. There are numerous special events held in the Town of Stonington that overwhelm the police department. They have not discussed the Borough yet.

A junior firefighter application has been received and will be voted on at the special meeting.

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

Met with Kevin from Bartlett and discussed the tree on the northwest of Wadawanuck Square. Needs to be cut down as per recommendation of Bartlett. Was postponed from a previous recommendation. It will be posted. There are a number of trees on Wad. Square that are aging. The divets on the wood and carriages and painting of both cannons needs to be done. I will get an estimate and put it in either this years or next year's budget.

#### **Public Buildings (Rogers)**

##### **Borough Hall**

The hinges on the front door have been replaced. The original hinges were failing.

The new front door lock/keypad system has been installed. Training on how to properly use the locking system has been done.

## **Firehouse**

Kevin Bowdler requested a side by side comparison of the two a/c quotes. Chris Curran has created it, and it has been emailed to the board for review.

The air-conditioning will be put in next year's budget.

## **Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)**

I am proposing that we add a new streetlight to pole 2751 that is on the west side of Main Street between Church and Grand Streets. It is a particularly dark part of Main Street. I have written to the four closest neighbors seeking their feedback. I mentioned our concerns about light trespass and light pollution. All our streetlights are dark sky compliant. I have only received one response, and it was supportive of the idea. I would like the minutes of this meeting to reflect this idea and to open it up for broader input from the community before asking Eversource to install the streetlight.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Jesse Diggs of School St. remarked that at the time of the discussion of the air-conditioning I suggested one of the units be put right here. That is the reason I volunteered to look at the engineer's recommendation. I think we should get serious about resident parking for South of the Cannons whether it be an Ordinance or resident stickers. Burgess Nicholas mentioned that police will not enforce resident parking. She will ask them again. She suggested folks get a sticker for overnight parking at Wayland's Wharf.

Resident Al Razzano of Main St. asked if the police cannot enforce resident parking, who can? Let's talk more about who can and cannot do what regarding enforcement.

Warden is taking the issue of resident parking under consideration and perhaps appoint a committee.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Public Restroom Update**

There are a few more things to decide (cleaning system, hours open, signage) before the restrooms can be opened. A consensus of 7 am to 7 pm was agreed upon and March 1<sup>st</sup> as the opening date. Sue Cordeiro is looking into places to put signage.

### **Storm resilience and mitigation; Wayland's Wharf and Omega**

We are working with SCOGG to apply for DEEP and emergency management grants to do a study on things we can do in our problem areas.

### **Firehouse Air-Conditioning**

Burgess Rogers will meet with Jesse Diggs about the location of air-conditioning units.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

All new business will be voted on at special Board meeting to be held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at noon via ZOOM.

### **Jerry Donovan request to put three stop signs at Wayland's Wharf intersection**

One at exit to Wayland's Wharf, one at Church St. facing condos., and one at Church and Gold. Another consideration is removing the parking space on Church St. and move to Gold and Church. Chief Hoadley says that would be tough as the one existing is already. The W&B agreed one stop sign should be placed at the exit to Wayland's Wharf. Burgess Nicholas will talk with SPD.

### **SBMA CT Main St. discussion**

Karen von Ruffer Mills and Deb Norman of Grand and Water spoke.

SBMA has joined CT Main St. to access making downtowns more vibrant. CT Main St. has made a report on the Borough along with a set of recommendations of additional items to be collected. SBMA has asked that a sub-committee of stakeholders be formed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment was declared at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman

March 4, 2025

