

Stonington Borough Comfort Station Taskforce  
Special Meeting  
Thursday November 2, 2023, 7 pm  
Stonington Borough Fire Department  
Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order : Tim, Allegra, Sarael, Karen, Chuck, Ellen, Amanda, Kevin, Jesse (by phone); Annette, Andrew Field and about 6 members of the public.

2. Review minutes of October 26th meeting: The minutes were approved (second by Ellen)

3. Discussion with Andrew Field re Borough Bodega

Andrew: space is in a central location in the commercial district. Seems tough/challenging financially.

Kevin: two different options/models: carve off a piece of the building/collect the rent. Other option - more actively involved in managing. Andrew prefers option that will require less work. Handicapped accessibility would require reworking the northern side of the building. An option without wheelchair accessibility was discussed.

Andrew: What are the anticipated annual expenses? Kevin suggested a smaller meeting with the architect, etc.

Jesse: Borough Hall seems to be a more cost effective option (it is Borough-owned, there is an existing handicapped accessible bathroom, etc).

4. Discussion re portable upgrade options for playground/dog park and point

Many options: What is a high-end attractive option with running water, heat, and electricity?

Jesse: find a price on the smallest possible handicapped accessible porta potty; would like two units. Discuss options to rent or buy.

Annette: The business/commercial district is the best area for a bathroom.

5. Discuss process to estimate costs for shortlisted options.

Karen, Chuck, Al, and Kevin will meet with Andrew on Monday at noon at the Boro Bodega and then move to Borough Hall to review upfront capital expenditures and annual operating costs. They will invite Julia to attend.

Jesse, Ellen, and Tim will look into porta potty options and do cost comparisons for a year round solution.

Comparisons for all locations will be done for a 10-year period (Borough Hall, Boro Bodega, and the portaloos (lease v. purchase)).

Kevin will bring expense line items to the next meeting.

Separate capital expenditures from annual operating costs.

Kevin, Chuck, Al, and Karen will share the information they find with Tim, Ellen, and Jesse.

6. Public Comment:

Jennifer Olsen read comments from Nina and Steve Cook of 2 and 4 Pearl Street; (see attached)

Jennifer Olson, 9 Northwest Street: opposed to adding any bathrooms to the playground for safety purposes. Two handicapped accessible porta potties near the electric box and kayaks would be a compromise, and would be less

Nancy Donahue, 144 Water St is worried about sexual predators at the playground.

The Bartholomew-Lesniewski Residence

33 Northwest St

Stonington CT

Nov 9, 2023

Subject: Concern over public toilet location and chosen solution

Dear Stonington Town Council,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to alternative views on the current public toilet solution. As a resident near the town docks I am writing with a few concerns regarding the proposed plan. I understand the importance of providing accessible facilities for a destination community like ours. I was hoping that 1. our solution would be more along the lines of other locations I frequent, such as Wickford RI, where their solution is within an existing building. This maintains the charm of the village while supporting visitor services. 2. Another consideration is for this service to be along the natural flow of our visitor traffic instead in an area where additional traffic flow will be driven away from our business district. I feel the visibility of mainstreet can help retain accountability of those who use it to respect and maintain it as part of our business service. I kindly request the town consider a trial of the current solution and examine other options that might meet the multiple perspectives from our village.

Best regards,

Leslie Bartholomew and Paul Lesniewski

Peter Russo  
Harbor View Apartments, LLC  
23 Gold Street  
Stonington, CT 06378

Nov. 7, 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Peter Russo, I am the landlord of Harbor View Apartments, 23 Gold Street also known as The Steam Boat Hotel. My family has owned the property for fifty years. We love the Boro and understand the need for better restroom facilities for visitors and patrons visiting the Village throughout the year.

The perceived ease and convenience of using the Fishing Dock Area as the sole location for a new multi head facility may prove in the long run to be an inconvenient location in addition to creating an attractive nuisance risk presenting potential liabilities for the Boro. The location is not proximate to the foot traffic that travels up and down Water Street from Dubois Beach to Dog Watch along with the pedestrian traffic on Main Street.

Isn't there an opportunity to strategically locate single head units in several locations along Water Street. The locations should be convenient well-lit and viewable. I would think possible locations would include Dubois Beach, near the LaGrua Center, Wayland's Warf, the Fishing Dock, the Library and the Fire House/Dog Watch area. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts on this challenge it is well over due to be resolved with compromise between all parties, merchants, restaurants and the residents.

Sincerely,  
Peter Russo