

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Aug 17, 2026
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Warden Michael Schefers 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. Present, in addition to Warden Schefers were Burgesses Amanda Barnes, Amy Nicholas, Kevin Bowdler, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Kevin Rogers was absent. Approximately 13 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the monthly meeting of July 20, 2026, were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

PHGS Procession Request.

Diving Street Curb Cut Request.

Thank you letter from Stonington Free Library.

Thank you note about repairs from Sam Greenfield of 1 North West St.

Diving Street Curb Cut Change.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period July 20, 2026, through June 30, 2027 totaled \$81,347.11. Large bills of note were for \$20,283.00 to CIRMA, \$29,000 to Stonington Free Library, \$4,147.21 to TK Elevator for Firehouse, and \$5,690.66 to O'Connor Davies for partial payment of audit. I&E for July 2026 through June 30, 2027, shows total income to date of \$1,059,590; and net income to date of \$1,059,590.

We need to add \$200,000 to line 1501.

Current YTD Balance Sheet
BOROUGH OF
STONINGTON
As of August 17, 2026

Distribution account	Total
1501 Dime - Infrastructure	\$179,290.91

1502 Dime - Building Fund	\$53,914.89
1503 Dime - Truck Fund	\$25,271.08
1504 Dime -- Fire Dept. Major Exp.	<u>\$46,859.10</u>
Total for Dime - Due to Others	\$305,335.98
Total for 1000 Dime Bank Checking Act.	\$210,939.85
1200 Dime Investment AC	<u>\$1,545,180.38</u>
Total for Bank Accounts	\$1,756,120.23

WARDEN'S REPORT

Attended SECOG and SEAT Meetings

Met with Chief Martin and Brian Meadows on SBFD matters

DOT will formally present their Viaduct repair design to Stakeholders on October 16th or 19th.

Attended Police Commission Meeting

Revised P&Z Regulations were approved and will be put into effect on 9/18 after public notice

Street and Sidewalks Commissioner Report (Schefers)

Conducted Monthly Brush Pickup

Completed Street Sweeping

Continued Seasonal Street and Crosswalk Painting

Conducted ongoing Park mowing and maintenance

Repaired chains on footbridge and took pictures of openings for fence company request for quotes for Hardwire screening.

Painted 20MPH at various locations (Viaduct, Water, and Bayview — Meadow, Cutler and Elm to follow)

Reviewed next sidewalk repairs to be completed on Water and Main.

Talked with owners that had shrubs, limbs, trees that were previously cited.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Martin)

There were sixteen alarms in July 2026 (9 in the Borough). They were as follows:

Incident Date	Primary Incident Type	Location Address
7/1/26	Other outside fire	12 HANCOX Street
7/1/26	Accidental alarm	145 WATER Street
7/4/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	Main Street
7/4/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	1 SALT ACRES Road
7/6/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	1 MAIN Street
7/6/26	No incident found upon arrival / location error	117 Water Street
7/10/26	Malfunctioning alarm	218 N Main Street

7/10/26	Accidental alarm	295 N Main Street
7/11/26	Malfunctioning alarm	39 WATER Street
7/12/26	Smoke investigation	71 Noyes Avenue
7/18/26	Citizen assist / service call	1 Stonington Commons
7/18/26	Malfunctioning alarm	195 Wamphassuc Road
7/26/26	Gas leak / gas odor	57 James Street
7/29/26	Lift assist	25 NORTHWEST Street
7/30/26	Lift assist	32 QUANADUCK Road
7/31/26	Accidental alarm	9 E NECK Road

Of the sixteen calls, 1 was for Fire, 5 were for Hazmat, 7 were for No Emergency, and 3 for Pubserv.

The traffic committee's recommendations were accepted by the police board. We will be buying a new speed monitor for on the viaduct.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

Met with Kevin from Bartlett a couple of weeks ago to go over a long list of items to be done. We did a walk around to look at trees. The sycamore on Water St. is being treated. The stump on Temple is on the list of to dos, a tree near the footbridge. The gingko on Water St. will come down soon.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

I'm pleased to report on the status of our two Borough-owned buildings: Borough Hall and the Fire House. Overall, both buildings continue to be well maintained, with only a few maintenance items requiring attention this month.

Fire House

Our recently installed HVAC system experienced a few issues during the month. The thermostat in the Chief's office required adjustment, and we also identified problems with several of the circulation pumps responsible for distributing air throughout the building.

I'm happy to report that Cameron from 72 Degrees responded promptly to our service request. After evaluating the system, he recommended replacing six of the building's nine circulation pumps to improve performance and reliability. We appreciate the quick response and professional service as we continue to fine-tune this new HVAC system.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

We have trash pick-up at the Point on Tuesday's and Friday's by Cassella. For an unknown reason, they did not come on Friday July 24th which resulted in overflowing bins on the weekend. Casella apologized profusely for missing the collection. The additional trash was

put into big black bags which were collected the following Tuesday by Cassella. I issued one warning citation for yellow bags being out the night before collection and not in a closed bin.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 School St. The windows in Borough Hall are good for window units. There are two unit at the Fire House that can be put in conference room of Boro Hall.

He asked what our plans are regarding Flock Cameras. Warden said that it is on the agenda under Unfinished Business. Asked why there in no mention of townspeople as stake holders of the viaduct bridge repair. Warden said the Board represents the public. The idea of a local traffic authority has the potential of being a good idea, the problem is who can enforce it.

Resident Chris Errichetti of Stonington Commons followed up to his remarks of July W&B meeting. Acknowledged he did not do extensive research into the statutes. Has done some more research. Statute 7-148 defines the default powers towns, cities and Boroughs have. Section B talks about traffic, the authority to prohibit the operation of vehicles on certain streets. Statute 7-149-D defines traffic authorities. It says municipalities such as Boroughs have inherent authority to act as traffic authorities. Warden Schefers says we need to change our Charter if we were to create a new entity.

Resident Stu Malcolm of 8 Denison Ave noted that the hollies at 51 Main St have not been taken care of completely. Asked that the suckers on the London plane trees on Denison Ave.be looked at. We need a speed detector on Water Street at Pearl. He noted kids riding bikes up Water St. going the wrong way. It is concerning to both the bike riders and elderly people.

Resident Craig Rowley of 19 Summit St. asked if there has been a response to request for quotes for hardwire fence on the pedestrian bridge.

Resident Wendy Koch of 41 Orchard St. thinks we should continue the talks about Flock camera.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Viaduct Update

Monthly meetings are being held with the State DOT. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. The deck and the substructure under the deck will be replaced.

Stormwater Management Update

We have a drain at Meadow and Orchard that feeds out into culverts that are part of the wetlands. Two of our neighbors agreed to clear up the phragmites and stuff that was impeding the flow of that drain. The drain was blown out after and now drains correctly. The Homeowners Association on East Grand St. own the dock and there is a large slab of concrete

and boulders that need to be removed. We are asking DEEP to give us a report on enforcement action regarding the maintaining of the culvert on the north side of the causeway by the owner of Salt Acres.

Status of Borough Traffic Committee Report Recommendations

All recommendations were approved by the Police Board. There will be a new crosswalk near the bottom of the viaduct and a new crosswalk at the post office, and a sign at the start of the viaduct that reads "20 mph ahead."

Flock Camera Discussion

There has been a lot in the news regarding flock cameras. A document has been posted on the Borough website. It is suggested that residents read the document and discuss at the September meeting. Our Governor has asked that there be a stop to reassess the value of the cameras. Warden Schefers said that there had been multiple speeding instances in the Borough resulting in blown out tires, excessive speeding on Main St. and we were concerned about that type of activity, leading to our installation of the Flock Camera. Tom Toomey of 103 Main St. stated that John Oliver's 22-minute piece on surveillance is worth watching.

Truck Concerns

Borough attorney Nick Kepple told Warden Schefers that, yes, we technically could write an Ordinance, create associated regulations and begin a police commission to regulate our streets. The current vehicle to address the truck lengths and parking concerns is to have Stonington Commons approach the police commission.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT (#2) Before Votes

None

NEW BUSINESS

PHGS Procession Request

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to approve the application made by the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society to use Main St, Broad St., Water St., to Cannon Square and return to PHGS for the procession at Mass at St. Mary's and return after in celebration of Feast of Holy Ghost on Sunday September 6th from 10 am to 12 pm., was unanimously approved.

Diving Street Curb Cut

Discussion: Richard Dubbs of 20 Diving St. has been authorized to also represent Amy Celico and Marcus Jones who are vehemently opposed to the inclusion of off-street parking. John Keyes of 16 Diving St. is happy to see the curb cut has been shortened and asked if the yellow paint will be on the inside of the curb cut. It will. The surface of the lot will need to be permeable. Chris Bleuher of 7 Diving St. liked seeing the lot being reduced from 6 to 3 spaces. Asked if there could be a stipulation that the cars of tenants/owners not use street parking spots.

Tabled. Mr. Kolnick will resubmit the drawing and application. To be on September meeting agenda.

2025-2026 Budget Overrun Decision

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas to approve the move of monies to accumulated reserve to cover last years' overage as determined by the audit, was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

I have received a request from Doug Rice about posting Stonington Borough Cultural District signs. It was agreed to ask Eric to put a sign on the entrance to the Velvet Mill.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:43 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
September 15, 2026