BOROUGH OF STONINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WARDEN -- APRIL 2021

What a year! As I write this, I realize that it has indeed been one year since we began wearing masks and keeping our distance from each other. We stopped going to work and school and learned new skills (think Zoom) as a way of keeping business, school, and relationships going. Now, with vaccinations increasing and summer approaching the possibility of life returning to something close to normal seems very real. We’re getting there, but don’t throw away those masks just yet. Continue observing basic precautions for a while longer to guard against a COVID-19 rebound.

Borough government has continued to function, albeit with some adjustments, over the past year. In accordance with the Governor’s executive orders, Borough Hall has remained closed to the general public, and public meetings have been conducted via Zoom. It’s been a bit bumpy at times, but the streets have been plowed and swept, the parks have been maintained, the Zoning Department has been busy as many people used money they had saved for travel and entertainment to instead fix up their homes, and the Fire Department has continued to keep us safe. Over the past year, the Borough Fire Department responded to a total of 142 calls, 80 of them in the Borough.

Borough elections will be held this year on Monday May 3. I have decided to run for warden one last time, and the current burgesses --- Amy Nicholas, Shaun Mastroianni, Amanda Barnes, and Kevin Rogers --- are also running again. In- person voting will be done at the fire house as usual

We had two significant staff changes in 2020. First was the tragic accidental death in July of Roger Colello, longtime member of the Street Department and Borough resident. Phoenix Grimes was hired to fill the vacancy left by Roger’s untimely death. At the end of November, Barbara Perry, who had been the Borough’s administrative assistant for nearly 20 years, retired. After a competitive search, the Borough hired Ann Sylvia Fiore, whose family lived in the Borough for generations.

In addition to Roger, a number of other current and former Borough residents died in 2020. Among them are Tony Bailey, Roy Wyatt, Charlie Chiappone, Jim Marenakos, Bill White, Tom and Marguerite Moore, Emmy Wharton, Betsy Wade, Fred Pampel, Krystyna Celichowska, Fred Eaton, Dorsey Boatwright, Tim Bell, Diane MacFadyen, and Helen Hobbs.

The Borough passed its annual CRS recertification, which means that we will continue to receive a ten percent discount on FEMA flood insurance, which a significant number of Borough residents carry.

As was the case last year, there will not be an in-person Borough annual meeting. The Governor’s executive orders regarding public meetings are still in effect, so the budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1 will be enacted by the Board of Warden & Burgesses at their April 19th monthly meeting. The proposed budget, which does not increase the mil rate, is posted on the Borough website.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Callahan, Warden