Board of Warden and Burgesses Special Meeting Thursday, February 20, 2025 12:00 PM

stoningtonboroughct.gov

BORO HALL
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
ZOOM:

https://us02web.zoom.us

MEETING ID#823 1752 1152 PASSCODE# 466042

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting; 01/21/25. (V).
- 3. Approval of Event Application:
  - a. Garden Club Tour (V)
  - b. Blessing of the Fleet Road Race (V)
  - c. St. Michael's blessing parade (V)
  - d. PHGS Club Fund Raiser for Parking (V)
  - e. PHGS Lenten Fish & Chips Parking (V)
  - f. SBMA Art Walk (V)
- 4. Approval of Wayland Wharf Repairs; Appropriation of funds from Infrastructure and Wayland's Wharf Account (V)
- 5. Approval of Youth Firefighter (V)

Adjournment (V)

(A) = Attachment (C)= Correspondence (V) = Vote required

# Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses Regular Monthly Meeting January 21, 2025 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 Kevin Rogers, Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, Kevin Bowdler, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Approximately 15 members of the public were present.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the monthly meeting of November 18, 2024, were approved.

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes of the monthly meeting of December 16, 2024, as amended to correct Wendy Hatch to Wendy Koch, were approved.

#### MOVE AUDITOR REPORT TO PRECEDE CORRESPONDENCE

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Warden Schefers, to have the auditor report by Katherine of PKF O'Connor Davies before correspondence, was unanimously approved.

Katherine of PKF O'Connor gave the auditor report for the FY June 30, 2024. Following are the items, comments and balance/amounts of the financial statements.

Burgess Bowdler questioned the auditor regarding GASB 103- Compensated Absences, the recommendation is the Borough review if unused vacation leave accrued at year end.

Warden Schefers questioned the auditor regarding GASB 103 and was told we will look at that for FY 2026.

Burgess Bowdler asked a question of what percentage of funds can be moved from one account line to another. The auditor said she would have to look at our by-laws and ordinances.

MOVE STORM RESILENCE REPORT FROM KEVIN BRAZA TO PRECEDE CORRESPONDENCE On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to have the repair report to Wayland's Wharf given by Kevin Braza before correspondence, was unanimously approved.

Kevin Braza of Braza Construction gave his recommendations to address erosion at Wayland's Wharf. The issue is not the seawall itself, it is the erosion under the sidewalks. The undermining is going all the way into the grass lawn. The only thing holding it is the buttress of old reinforcement. The first step will be shoring it up. Next step comes forming it up. Third

step is repointing the wall. The railing should be pipe rail which gets bolted through the new infrastructure. The timeline is a month for this work. The sidewalk should be barricaded for now.

Resident Frank Tong of 1 Church St. asked the question of how long between Phase One and Phase Two. Warden Schefers replied that Phase One will be this year, Phase 2 next year.

Resident Lisa Tepper Bates of 118 Water Street expressed her gratitude to the Board for taking on this issue and it is heartening that we are moving forward. She expressed her concern about the height. Warden Schefers answered there will be scuppers to lead the water flow back out.

Resident Ed Smith of Main St. mentioned we may have to build up the park area.

Resident Scott Bates of 118 Water Street wondered if the Board should combine Phases 2 and 3 by getting a bond to pay for this or a price break from the Construction Company. If we were to do one part, how does it affect the other parts that need to be done?

Phase Two will be the West facing side.

The estimate proposal will be modified to include scope changes and a new railing.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**RECEIVED:** 

lan Cooke email on Borough Property Plantings Doug Rice email on location of Sculpture Request for Borough road use for Feast of Fatima Procession Alice Despard email on off-leash dog assault

#### **REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER**

Received The Day postings of party caucuses to be held, from the Democratic and Forward Parties. Received the result of caucus endorsements from the Democratic and Forward Parties. Requested dates of Early Voting from SOTS office. That is due from SOTS office on January 24, 2025.

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

Bills for the period December 16, 2024, through January 16, 2025, totaled \$159,138.91. Large bills of note were the Length of Service Awards, Fire Chief Vehicle, Sidewalk Repairs, Legal Services for P&Z Actions, Tree Maintenance, and Maintenance of Trucks/Equipment. I&E for July 2024 through December 16, 2024, shows total income to date of \$1,439,768.36; and net income to date of \$454,483.88. Balance of ARPA funds is \$31,608.00.

#### **WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

Attended SCCOG Legislature Meeting on Current Legislative Session priorities.

Attended SCCOG December Meeting.

Attended SEAT December Board Meeting.

Received "CT Main Street" findings on our current Borough economy, commerce/ Storefronts, events and cultural activities and related practices. Meeting with SBMA in February. Attended FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants Program Seminar for Orchard, High, Meadow Streets and other storm water concerns around the Borough. Discussed Elm Street Pedestrian Footbridge and Sidewalk Project with CT DOT and CLA Engineers.

The viaduct work is now likely scheduled for 2029.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Streets & Sidewalks (Schefers)

Conducted monthly brush pickup.

Continued Park maintenance.

Completed leaf street cleaning.

Conducted Christmas Tree pickups.

Flushed stormwater drains on Church and Main Streets.

Installed new Sand Spreader vibrator on 2024 Borough

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

SBFD responded to 9 alarms in December 2024, they were as follows:

- 1) 12-2-24 6:14am Water emergency 6 Stonington Commons (fitting on a water line)
- 2) 12-6-24 2:31am Fire Alarm Activation 22 Quarry Path L.P. (faulty detector)
- 3) 12-8-24 1:44pm Odor of gas 190 Water St., (nothing found, tanks 10%)
- 4) 12-10-24 9:20pm Odor of gas 77 Main St., (gas can tipped over in basement)
- 5) 12-22-24 8:34pm Fire Alarm Activation 279 Flanders Rd. (nothing found)
- 6) 12-23-24 8:59am Furnace problem 24 Main St., (water leak)
- 7) 12-24-24 6:15am Furnace problem 24 Main St., (high heat in residence)
- 8) 12-26-24 6:01am Fire Alarm Activation 13 E Grand St., (humidifier?)
- 9) 12-27-24 2:33pm Structure Fire 23 Elm St., (garage, wood stove pipe)

#### **Yearly Reports**

SBFD responded to 117 Alarms in 2024, breakdown is as follows:

Also, FYI

2023.....131 Alarms

2022.....136 Alarms

2021.....124 Alarms

2020.....140 Alarms

2019.....128 Alarms

2018.....152 Alarms

If the Board plans to put the Ukrainian statue on the island near the entrance to the Firehouse, St. Mary's owns half of that island so you will need to get permission from Fr. Perkins.

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

Michael and I attended the meeting with Police Board, and we have permission to put the overnight parking signs up. Wording to be given to the Warden by Burgess Nicholas. Forming a subcommittee regarding Townwide special events and I have joined it as a representative for the Borough.

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

None

#### Public Buildings (Rogers)

#### Borough Hall

Front Door Lock – one of the final parts of the public restroom is the new Boro Hall locking mechanism. It was ordered and will be installed once it comes in. The new locking mechanism will have a fob and keypad that will allow access to the building beyond normal business hours. The oil gauge on our oil tank is not functioning properly. A ticket has been created to check it out. A new design for the Boro Hall meeting room furniture was put into place while the building was closed. We believe this new setup will create a more "intimate" setting between the audience and the Board during our meetings (and people to hear others more clearly).

#### **Public Restroom**

Sue C noticed the sink in the ADA bathroom had a leak. We have fixed that issue.

#### **Firehouse**

Secondary bids have come in for the A/C project.

We have also received a bid from the electrician for their part of the A/C project. Jesse Diggs has volunteered his expertise and will be included in meetings moving forward.

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

Issued six warning citations for trash this month.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Ed Smith of Main Street concerned with parking with proposed water taxi out of the dock behind the Commons. Do they have to go through Zoning. If they don't get parking, cars using that service will be parking from Cannon Square and South. Consider Residential Parking stickers.

Resident Alice Despard of 3 Main Street had an incident happen at Dime Bank where her dog was attacked by another dog not on leash. She has talked to other residents, and they reported the same dog has attacked other dogs. She reported to Animal Control.

Resident Camille Cunningham of 37 Orchard St. was attacked by the same brown dog on Sept 21, 2024, on Front St. The dog came running out of the house and jumped on her dog. The owner/resident asked if I was ok. The dog got loose again. She did not report the incident.

Resident Dean Anderson of Water Street said we don't have a Borough slogan. He suggested "No amount of planning will replace dumb luck." Burgess Rogers said we do have one "We don't care what you do, as long as we know about it."

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Public Restroom Update** 

See Public Buildings Report

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

See Kevin Braza report above under Storm Resilience

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Ian Cooke Request

lan Cooke of 69 Main Street has asked for permission to do flower planting no higher than the back of a chair or 24 inches, in the grassy area between the sidewalk and the curb in front of his house on Borough property. It will be at his expense, with him maintaining the area. There can be no fencing. Concerns by Warden Schefers and Burgess Barnes about setting a precedent. Tabled.

Burgess Barnes will work with Ian Cooke about the details for his application.

#### R. Douglass Rice Request

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the request by R. Douglass Rice for relocation of "Standing with the Women and Children of Ukraine" Sculpture to the grass area by the Firehouse Driveway, subject to approval by St. Mary's Church, was unanimously approved.

#### St. Michael's Request for Our Lady of Fatima Procession use of Borough Property

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the request by St. Michael's Parish to use Borough Streets for Our Lady of Fatima Feast Procession from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, subject to approval of insurance, was unanimously approved.

#### Dog Leash Incident

Warden Schefers will include in his Annual Warden's letter that there is a leash law, we must adhere to this, report any incidents to animal control, and the dog owner will be issued a warning, then a citation.

Warden Schefers will speak to Erin and Liz Wood of Stonington Historical Society who rent the building to Dime Bank.

A citation will be issued to the dog that attacked Alice Despard's dog.

A note of the ordinance will be put on the doggie poop containers. Citations will be given to Burgesses.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS and Discussion**

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to add an item to our agenda "Settlement Agreement and Release" signed by Dime Bank and Warden Schefers, was unanimously approved.

Warden Schefers read the following statement approved by the two entities

"In late November the Borough of Stonington's mail was hacked and the hackers used the stolen email to make substantial unauthorized transfers out of the Borough's investments accounts at Dime Bank totaling \$299,454.00. (Corrected this in a motion later during Reconvene Meeting.) Dime Bank has worked closely with Borough, state, local and federal enforcement and successfully recovered the majority of the funds and the Borough account will be made whole for its temporary losses. The Borough has implemented additional measures to protect itself from such activity in the

future. Both the Borough and Dime Bank are appreciative of the cooperation and commitment to securing the return of these funds demonstrated by both organizations."

Attorney Kepple passed copies of the "Settlement Agreement and Release" to Board members so they could read it.

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to authorize Warden Michael Schefers, on behalf of the Borough, to sign a "Settlement Agreement and Release" regarding the restoration of funds in full to the Borough's investment account pursuant to unauthorized wire transfers from said account, was unanimously approved.

"Settlement Agreement and Release" was signed by Warden Schefers on January 21, 2025, the Dime will sign January 22, 2025.

Warden thanked Dime Bank, Attorney Kepple, Dime Bank's attorney, and Ann Fiore for their work in identifying the issue, and closing this matter.

#### Firehouse Airconditioning Update

Dunklee proposal came out at \$64,773. 72 Degrees proposal came in at \$62,000. The electric bill is \$10,445.79. Project manager Chris Curran will be \$10,800. Have Jesse Diggs review the proposals. Have Chris Curran come to February or March 2025 meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 9:08 pm, was unanimously approved.

#### **RECONVENE MEETING**

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to reconvene the meeting at 9:09 pm, was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to correct Warden Schefers settlement statement dollar amount to reflect \$349,454, was unanimously approved.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, adjournment of the meeting at 9:13 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Lisa M. Coleman January 29, 2025

(REVISED AT RIC 2010	·)
Borough property to be used: WADAWANUCK SQU	ARE AND PARKING
SPACES AROUND PERIMETER OF SCUP	TRE (WATER HIGH, MAIN, BROAD)
Description of the event to be held: TRI ANNUAL STONI	DUTON GARDEN CLUB "GARDENS
June 11, 2026 Set up  June 12, 13, 2026 Tour  Contact Person:  LAURA METZGER	Time of the event: Each day  From: 8am To: 6pm  Includes Setup + Breakdown times  860 287 6274  Phone Number(s)
36 ISLAND RD, STONINGTON Mailing Address 06378	Metzgerlaura46@gmail.com E-mail Address
LAURA METZGER  Printed Name of Responsible Party  Additional Conditions & Requirements: We hald this  reacy years, It's an only major fundral	tour in the Borough for  ser, Proceeds go towards
funding our community projects & Sch	holauships each year,
Approved by the Borough of Stonington:	
Name I	Date
* A certificate of insurance will be your deadline borozecoptions per you * A copy of the TOUR MAP	sent to your office before in requirements, FROM LAST TOUR in 2022
AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHE	DE AND TODAL FACTOR

Borough property to be used: Town Dock and Bo	rough Streets
Description of the event to be held: Blessing of the F	leet 5K Race
Date of the event:  July 24, 2025	Time of the event: From: 6:00pm To: 8:00pm = race 4:00pm Toun Dock registration
Contact Person: Michele Crowley	860-326-8505
Name	Phone Number(s)
11 Palmer Street, Stonington, CT 06378	maccrowley@aol.com
Mailing Address	E-mail Address
by any act or omission of the agency/organization, any them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be lial and death, personal injury or damage o property directly resulting there from as permitted by law unless and to the Certificate of Insurance must be attached. Failure to congrounds for rescinding permission.	ble resulting in bodily injury including sickness bly or indirectly, including the loss of use the extent caused by the Borough's willful acts.
Signature of Responsible Party	Date
Very Reverend Dennis M. Perkins Printed Name of Responsible Party	
Additional Conditions & Requirements:	
Approved by the Borough of Stonington:	
Name	Date

Borough property to be used: Town Dock and Borou	igh Streets
Description of the event to be held: Blessing of the	e Fleet event and procession
Date of the event: July 27, 2025	Time of the event: From: 10:00am To: 4:00pm 10:30 mass/12-4 Town Duck
Contact Person: Mike & Georgia Crowley	860-535-0667
Name	Phone Number(s)
11 Palmer Street, Stonington, CT 06378	cmcirisheyes@aol.com
Mailing Address	E-mail Address
by any act or omission of the agency/organization, an them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be lia and death, personal injury or damage o property direct resulting there from as permitted by law unless and to Certificate of Insurance must be attached. Failure to c grounds for rescinding permission.  Signature of Responsible Party	able resulting in bodily injury including sickness thy or indirectly, including the loss of use the extent caused by the Borough's willful acts.
· · · · ·	Date
Very Reverend Dennis M. Perkins  Printed Name of Responsible Party	
Additional Conditions & Requirements:	
Approved by the Borough of Stonington:	
Name	Date

(REVISED APRIL 2018)

Вс	prough property to be used: Workers HUY	417CH SCHITT 126 MON STRLET
I	THRE PARKING SPRIS DIRECTLY	IN FRONT OF PROPERTY
	escription of the event to be held: FUND VATURE	
IN	TURNATUMAL (WATERFORD) FUNDS FOR	EDD & PRUKIONS HURALIME OF FIRE RELIEF.
	ate of the event: TMUSPA-	Time of the event: From: 4pm To: 8pm.
	ontact Person: Herror Aren ume	(S6) 535-3855 / \$60) 884 -9324.  Phone Number(s)
	3 MAWSTEET.	Phass torrestinagnuil · con
for and resulting their and resulting Cer	agrees that it will indemnify a pective officers, agents, and employees from any loss, cost bility whatsoever kind or nature howsoever the same maybe any act or omission of the agency/organization, anyone dir m or anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable result death, personal injury or damage o property directly or inculting there from as permitted by law unless and to the extentificate of Insurance must be attached. Failure to comply wounds for rescinding permission.	nd hold harmless the <i>Borough</i> and its s, damages, expenses, judgments and e caused resulting directly or indirectly ectly or indirectly employed by any of lting in bodily injury including sickness directly, including the loss of use and caused by the Borough's willful acts.
H	nature of Responsible Party	JAMARY 18TH 2025.
	nted Name of Responsible Party	
	litional Conditions & Requirements: THIS 15 Se	
6	NEWTS BUT WE ARE DOING THIS "	ONK OFF "FUNDEAUSLYR TO
ME	IP THE HONS CLUB PATSE FUND	8 FOR NC AND CA VILTIMS OF HURRICOMES & FIRES
Appi	proved by the Borough of Stonington:	HUZRICOMES & FIRES
Nam	16	Date

IK WE MAY NOT HAVELKMANY ATTONDERS AS OUR USUAL

For CS BUT WANT TO APPLY FUR SPACES JUST IN CARE. MOTE ITS ON A THURSDAY WONING Thankyon

	Borough property to be used: Riverse	WER HUY CHUST SOFETY 26 MMN	ST.
	THIRDE PARKING SPATES D	INTET IN FOUNT OF PAPARAGE	
	Description of the event to be held: FIN	DIRAISING FISHACHIPS DURING FRA	DAYS
	(2/28/25 - 4/4/25) INC	USING TO MION HOR ACKUP OF-	TAKE DUTS.
	Date of the event: 2/28/75 - 4/18/25	Time of the event: From:     Am   To: 6.3	
	Contact Person:  HUNGO JAHUR  Name	Phone Number(s)  Phys toning in 20	<u>b)                                    </u>
	26 MAN STROET Mailing Address	Physitanington 20	mad com
Ria	respective officers, agents, and employees liability whatsoever kind or nature howsoby any act or omission of the agency/orga them or anyone for whose acts any of their and death, personal injury or damage o presulting there from as permitted by law u	Borough property listed above (agency/organization) at it will indemnify and hold harmless the <i>Borough</i> and its from any loss, costs, damages, expenses, judgments and ever the same maybe caused resulting directly or indirect nization, anyone directly or indirectly employed by any on may be liable resulting in bodily injury including sickn operty directly or indirectly, including the loss of use nless and to the extent caused by the Borough's willful a Failure to comply with any conditions stated below may	ly of ess cts.
	Signature of Responsible Party	JANUARY 17th 2025	
	Printed Name of Responsible Party	VICE PASIDONT	
	Additional Conditions & Requirements:		
	Approved by the Borough of Stonington:		
	Name	 Date	<del></del>

Borough property to be used: Water Street between Hi and green with access to outlets for the purpose of approxim	igh Street and Church Street, Wadawanuck Square drivewa nately potential food vendors and music.
Description of the event to be held: Seventh Annual	Art Walk - a one-day outdoor, art show with musicians and
food vendors. Artists will set up down the center of Water St	treet and music will be at select locations along the route.
Date of the event: September 13, 2025 / Rain Date 9/14/25	Time of the event: From: 10 am To: 4 pm
Contact Person:	CLOSE STREET AT 7:30 AM
Sandra Alexander / on behalf of the SBMA	(215) 266-2058
Name	Phone Number(s)
PO Box 821, Stonington CT 06378	DessaLeaProductions@gmail.com
Mailing Address	E-mail Address
them or anyone for whose acts any of them may be I and death, personal injury or damage o property dire resulting there from as permitted by law unless and t Certificate of Insurance must be attached. Failure to grounds for rescinding permission.	ectly or indirectly, including the loss of use to the extent caused by the Borough's willful acts. comply with any conditions stated below may be
Signature of Responsible Party	February 11, 2025
Sandra Alexander, Dessa Lea Productions / SBMA Printed Name of Responsible Party	Date
Additional Conditions & Requirements  We plan to contract one Stonington Police officer or private Residents will be notified along affection portion of Water Upon approval, we will secure and provide proof of insure	r Street.
Approved by the Borough of Stonington:	
 Name	Date

### Borough Accounts 18-Feb-25

Cash in Checking Account Investments in US Treasuries, CD's and MMKT Act Total Cash and Investments  Of which the following amounts have been allocated the following Designated Funds	\$ 60,438 \$ 1,198,744 \$ 1,259,182
Public Restrooms (ARPA) Building Fund Truck Fund Fire Department Major Expense Infrastructure Reserve Fund Waylands Wharf Fund Total Funds Allocated by Warden and Burgesses	\$ 4,352 \$ 30,312 \$ 4,013 \$ 5,104 \$ 126,051 \$ 36,664 \$ 206,496
Sidewalls:	Project #1 B,566.91 Phose #2 24,874.62 98,438.53 62,236,63 = 5
Reducing 2024-25 Sidewalk v	epails by 11774,53 From 80,000.00

#### **PROPOSED**

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: 2024-2028 (rev 4.15-24)

FY 24-25: REPAIR UPPER CLIFF STREET AND AROUND CANNON SQUARE (\$70,000); (\$80,000) SIDEWALK REPAIRS);(\$50,000) WAYLAND'S WHARF

FY 25-26: PAVE BROAD STREET (Main to Water); PAVE DIVING STREET (\$150,000)

FY 26-27: PAVE PEARL STREET (Main to Water); PAVE NORTHWEST STREET (\$130,000)

FY 27-28: UPPER WATER VIADUCT TO DODSON (TBD)

### STONINGTON BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

### APPLICATION FORM FOR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER

NAME Chad Planeta
ADDRESS 13 Huntington Way, Ledyard, CT
PHONE NUMBER 860-235-9346 DATE OF BIRTH 10/20/08
SIGNATURE (APPLICANT) Chad Planeta
I, Michael Plancta HEREBY GIVE MY PERMISSION
TO HAVE MY SON DAUGHTER Chad
BECOME A MEMBER OF THE STONINGTON BOROUGH JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS.
SIGNATURE (PARENT/GUARDIAN) MICHAEL A CONTROL (PARENT/GUARDIAN) MICHAEL (PARENT/
DATE Z-18-2025
FIRE CHIEF AM HALLY
WARDEN