

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
June 16, 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 Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, Kevin Bowdler, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Kevin Rogers was absent. Approximately 11 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes of the monthly meeting of May 19, 2025, as amended to delete ARPA funds and also revise "Chief Hoadley has been asked to supply the number of EMT calls for the last 12 months" under Fire/Police, were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

J. Pandolfi Email requesting removal of Water St, Tree
SVIA - Application-COMO 73rd Annual Village Fair to close High Street
Letter from Micheal Fontana for member of ZBA
Application Form for Junior Firefighter Miquel Sebastian Gonzalez Zavala
Event Application — Sam Greenfield Food Truck outside of the PHGS.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

none

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT; ARPA UPDATE

Bills for the period May 19, 2025, through June 12, 2025, totaled \$72,834.26. Large bills of note were for Suisman Shapiro for legal bills year to date, New England Mechanical Services for boiler repair in Boro Hall, James S. Butler for P&Z Consultant, SVIA for Fourth of July parade and Curran Construction for deposit for air conditioning in firehouse. I&E for July 2024 through June 30, 2025, shows total income to date of \$1,458,780.70; and net income to date of \$110,932.98.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Met with First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough on shared local items of interest.
Attended May SCCOG Meeting.
No May SEAT Board Meeting.
Met with Kevin Brazia on Phase Two scope and estimate for Wayland's Wharf in FY 25-26.
Met with Sidewalk Contractor to discuss additional sidewalk repairs in June.
Executed Final Five-Year Fire Service Agreements with SFD and Wamphassuc.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Schefers)

Conducted Brush Pickup and Park Mowing and Maintenance.

Initiated Spring/Summer Painting.

Completed repair and realignment of sidewalk slates between Broad and High streets. Next will be Main St in front of Duckham residence.

Completed Street repairs on upper Water Street and painted two permanent street handicap spots on Water Street.

Scheduled grading and application of additional stone material at the Point Parking Lot.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD Responded to 17 Alarms, 11 were in the Borough.

- 1) 5-1-25 7:07pm Fire Alarm Activation 184 Water St. (burnt food on stove)
- 2) 5-5-25 11:05am Transformer Fire @ the end of Bradley St. (osprey nest on top of a utility pole on fire, end of Bradley St., just south of Amtrak, EVERSOURCE, Amtrak personal enroute, Amtrak northeast corridor shut down for approximately 45 minutes, power outage in area)
- 3) 5-6-25 9:34am Fire Alarm Activation 145 Water St. (workers)
- 4) 5-7-25 5:46am Medical assist with SAC 45 Coveside Lane (lift assist)
- 5) 5-7-25 1:54pm Fire Alarm Activation 32 Water St., Ston. Commons (workers)
- 6) 5-10-25 11:10am Outside Fire 1 Main St. (chair cushions, fire out on arrival)
- 7) 5-12-25 11:20am Fire Alarm Activation 11 East Neck Rd., WAMP. Pt. (faulty detector)
- 8) 5-13-25 7:53pm Fire Alarm Activation 16 Diving St. (faulty detectors, change batteries, all ok)
- 9) 5-14-25 9:22am Fire Alarm Activation 41 Main St. (workers)
- 10) 5-15-25 8:11pm Fire Alarm Activation 194 Water St., Dog Watch (faulty detector)
- 11) 5-17-25 12:22pm Tree & Wires down Flanders @ Pelligrino Rd. (Deans Mill @ Pelligrino Rd., Quiambaug district)
- 12) 5-20-25 9:50am Fire Alarm Activation 268 N. Water St. (small fire in residence due to electrical issues, minimal damage, fire extinguished, EVERSOURCE enroute to fix)
- 13) 5-21-25 7:03pm Oil sheen in water, Ston. Town Dock (lobster boat bilge)
- 14) 5-22-25 5:41pm Tree down on wires IFO 345 N. Main St. (EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 15) 5-25-25 7:57pm Fire Alarm Activation 31 Church St. (burnt shad roe)
- 16) 5-27-25 10:17pm Dumpster Fire 22 Bayview Ave. Velvet Mill (fire contained to dumpster, cause unknown)
- 17) 5-28-25 10:22 MVA Elm St. @ Rt. 1 (no injuries, 2 refusals)

April Police Incident Report (Nicholas)

Attending Town of Stonington meeting and vote tonight.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

Residents of 20 Denison Ave want to plant a tree in LaGrua Park. It is a good location for a tree.

They want to plant a London Plain or Sycamore. The warden asked to have Bartlett to send a bill right away since we are trying to close the books.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Borough Hall

Soap Dispenser:

I have stopped into the restrooms and washed my hands over the month to see if the soap dispensers needed replacing. I even ran into Holly, the woman who cleans, and asked about her

observations. We both feel that after the dispenser in the new restroom was tinkered with, it works fine. The soap shoots directly into the bowl of the sink and NOT on the person washing their hands.

A new handicap parking spot was marked with blue paint outside Boro Hall to comply with ADA rules.

Fire House

Thank you to the Stonington Garden Club for a great job on beautifying the Firehouse grounds. I will do my normal grounds cleaning next week.

Air Conditioning Project:

Materials that were time sensitive with cost factor, have been purchased. The needed zoning approvals have been secured.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

Sanitation:

The new 48-gallon trash bins are expected to be received by CWPM in late June. They have contracted with a third party who will arrange for delivery to those homes who have requested them.

I did a trash citation round on Wednesday night and my observation is that more people are putting the bins out the night before and the vast majority, maybe 80% are using the CWPM bins. There were smaller bins being used south of Cannon Square but nearly everywhere else they were using the new bins and had them placed neatly near the curb.

I only issued 2 citations for people leaving their yellow bags out the night before collection.

That is the lowest number I have ever issued. Prior to the new bins, I would estimate that I was averaging 5 citations to 8 citations per enforcement round.

Utilities

We talked last month about solar lights that require only about 3 hours of direct sunlight to fully charge the batteries. The main benefit is that we can turn these lights off at 10 pm or whenever we decide so that they do not adversely impact the neighbors who live nearby. Alternatively, we can place a streetlight on any Eversource pole, but they will stay on from dusk to dawn and will incur a modest ongoing monthly charge. The solar lights are a one-time, upfront investment.

Here is a link to a brochure for the lights:

<https://flt.com/products/scl2/>

The best locations for a trial would be any of the following:

Water St between Union and Harmony

Water St between Broad and High

Water St between High and Temple

Main St between Union and Church

The quote for two lights, including poles and delivery is \$9,570. We would need to install them.

This company has sold similar lights to Groton who has installed about 30 of them in Poquonnock Plains Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 School St. thanked Clerk-Treasurer for keeping up with all the Public Comments. Thank you for patching the hole at the end of Diving and Water.

When is the meeting with the DOT meeting on the bridge? Warden answered it will not be held virtually, it will be public. Waiting to hear if it will be held at the police station or the high school. No change in the footprint of the bridge. One potential issue is asking the COMO to remove part of the annex building. There will be two lanes of egress and ingress during the construction.

Resident Frank Tong of 2 Church St. asked when the ladder at Wayland's Wharf will be installed. Warden answered it will be replaced shortly.

He offered his help with the composting project.

Resident Casey Malcolm of 8 Denison would like more information on composting. She was told to contact Jill Senior in the Town of Stonington Transfer office. The Town of Stonington has applied for another grant. The green bags are collected at the transfer station.

Resident Stu Malcolm of 8 Denison asked where the compost goes after it is collected. The answer is it sent to an industrial composter.

He also asked about solar lighting, is it just for new light fixtures, are they for all locations or just for dead spots? The answer is just for dark spots. Thank you also to Burgess Barnes for taking care of ill tree limbs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PGHS-Application, Parking space on Main Street

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, the application made by Portuguese Holy Ghost to use two spaces for food vendor trucks at 26 Main St on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 4:00 pm – 8 p.m., subject to conversation with PHGS about contacting neighbors and guidelines, as well as naming the Borough of Stonington on the insurance policy, was approved.

Discussion was held regarding the two requests, Al Razzano of Main St. feels no hardship for this but feels Betsy Carr and Alice Huston perhaps could. He feels it is a public club and how do we work together to have this work? The consensus was a conversation must take place with the PHGS to contact the neighbors as well as the frequency of events and, in general, setting a precedence for these type events.

2024 – 2025 Budget Changes

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Warden Schefers to transfer \$6,000 from Line 610 to Truck Fund, \$10,000 from Line 305 to Fire Equipment Major, \$6,000 from Line 207 to 306 Telecommunications, \$4,500 from Line 243 to Infrastructure Fund and \$5,000 from Line 509 to Infrastructure Fund, were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Application-COMO 73rd Annual Village Fair to close High Street

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the application by the Stonington COMO to use Wadawanuck Square and High Street (High Street closed from 7 am-6 pm) on 8/2/2025 for the 73rd Annual Village Fair for crafters, games, and food trucks from 10 am-4 pm, was approved.

Letter from Michael Fontana to be a member of ZBA

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve Michael Fontana to be a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, was approved.

Application for Junior Firefighter Miquel Sebastian Gonzalez Zavala

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the application from Miguel Sebastian Gonzalez Zavala to become a Junior Firefighter, was approved.

Burgess Nicholas request to revise Motor Vehicles (SB-02) to allow greater than 72-hour parking at Wayland's Wharf Tabled.

Event Application – Sam Greenfield Food Truck outside of the PHGS

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the application made by Sam Greenfield to have a parking spot outside of the PHGS, 26 Main St. on August 2nd from 5 pm-9 pm for the Rolling Tomato Food Truck to cook pizzas in their truck outside of building, no food service to occur on sidewalk, for the Greenfield/Saluk wedding reception, on the condition we meet with PHGS to set parameters and subject to the Borough of Stonington being named on the insurance with Rolling Tomato Food Truck, was approved.

Warden and either Burgess Nicholas or Barnes will meet with the PHGS.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, adjournment of the meeting at 8:04 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
June 24, 2025

