

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
May 19, 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 11 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler the minutes of the monthly meeting of April 21, 2025, as amended to change Common to Stonington Commons throughout the police report, were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

SVIA Application, 4th of July Parade
PGHS-Application, Parking space on Main Street

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

Election was May 5, 2025. Fifty-seven ballots, five absentee ballots.

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT; ARPA UPDATE

Bills for the period April 18, 2025, through May 15, 2025, totaled \$91,553.42. Large bills of note were for fire hydrants from Aquarion Water, Edward French for storm water drain, Fire Matic for Fire Truck repairs, the second payment to K.E. Braza Construction, and MES/Shipman for Suits, Pants and Helmets. I&E for July 2024 through May 15, 2025, shows total income to date of \$1,459,519.59; and net income to date of \$247,800.65. Balance of ARPA funds is \$4,352.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Met with First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough on shared local items of interest.
Attended April SCCOG Meeting.
Attended April SEAT Board Meeting.
Signed new 5 Year Fire Service Agreement with Lord's Point Fire Association President.
2025-2026 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan were approved at Annual Borough Meeting.
Sent resulting Borough Mill Rate to Town Tax Collector for billing.
Met with SBMA and Main Street on Borough Workshop.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Schefers)

Conducted Brush Pickup
Conducted Park Mowing and Maintenance
Sue met with French Paving on needed street paving repairs
Started Street Painting
Removed 51 Mainstreet Holly above sidewalk
Assisted Garden Club with Wayland's Wharf Rain Garden Expansion

Sue's efforts are appreciated. The Burgesses asked if could back the holly another 12-18". It was decided that new growth should be allowed before it is cut back again.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to 8 Alarms in April 2025 (6 of which were in the Borough), they were as follows:

- 1) 4-3-25 12:30pm Smoke Detector Activation 6 Harbor View Terrace (cleaned detector & changed battery, all ok)
- 2) 4-5-25 10:16am Fire Alarm Activation 348 N. Main St. (burnt toast)
- 3) 4-10-25 3:45pm C/O Detector Activation 8 Gold St (70 ppm, vented residence, 3 cats located & ok, workers had been on scene earlier)
- 4) 4-13-25 10:36pm Odor of gas 9 E. Grand St. (no C/O readings, vented residence)
- 5) 4-14-25 8:03pm Odor of gas 9 E. Grand St. (garbage disposal, sewer gas)
- 6) 4-17-25 8:58am Fire Alarm Activation Stonington Como (searched building twice, nothing found)
- 7) 4-18-25 2:12am Medical Assist with SAC 54 Gold St. (lift assist)
- 8) 4-20-25 1:58pm Fire Alarm Activation LaGrua Center (1st floor bathroom, cleaned detector, metered building, nothing found)

Many things happen in the Borough each month where the chief or fire department are called. Chief asked that residents call 911 for the most efficient and timely response to their request for help.

The Town of Stonington will hold a vote on June 16th and one of the items is for tax abatement of up to \$2,000 on property tax each year for fire fighters.

Chief is getting the number of calls for Borough emergencies.

April Police Incident Report (Nicholas)

Michael and I attended a demonstration on Flock Cameras. The investigation into the recent reckless driving incidents is ongoing.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

I met with Kevin Mucha from Bartlett to discuss the following work which will be completed in the coming weeks:

- Pruning of 2 London Planes on Pearl Street near intersection of Gold Street
- Pruning of 2 Crabapples on Pearl Street near intersection of Gold St.
- Planting of one Kousa Dogwood on Broad Street
- Planting of one Sweet Gum on Cliff Street

I met with neighbors of the Front Street circle to discuss plans for improving that area now that construction is complete. We are going to start with low maintenance landscaping in the center of the circle (creeping myrtle, etc.), and they would like to use some granite stones (from Wimpfheimer storage area) around the perimeter. The planning for all of this is in progress, and I will be meeting with a local landscaper to discuss options.

Burgesses suggested that some of the benches on Wadawanuck Square be turned to face Wad Square. Sue will need to see if they can be moved.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Borough Hall

None

Fire House

Nothing to report.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

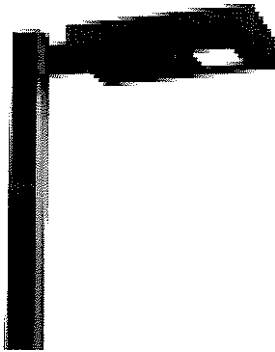
Sanitation

Things have quieted down on the trash front so I will re-commence the rounds on Wednesday nights to identify any trash that has been placed on the curb and not in a closed bin.

We discussed adding more doggy mitts at our last meeting. I have attached the map of current locations. Should we add more and if so, where?

Utilities

I had another conversation with a solar light company. There appears to be an improvement in the solar light technology in that they only require 3 to 4 hours of direct sunlight to charge the batteries. The lights are very intelligent and will reduce power if the battery is dying after several cloudy days. We can also set the light to any program we want that can be controlled from your phone. E.g. on for 4 hours after dusk and on one hour before dawn. They also have a sensor option so that even when the light is off, it will come on if it senses motion. When mounted on a 12 feet high pole, they can shed a wide thin light about 30 feet each side of the post. These are significantly less expensive at \$3,500 than the colonial style we looked at (1 OK) The problem is that they do not look very nice. Let's discuss what you think. The measurement of the light fixture is 19" long, 16" wide and 6.5" high.



I will look at particularly dark spots to suggest a location for a trial.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 School St. thanked the Board for the Public Restrooms. Regarding Public Comment – public comment can get buried and not dealt with. He wants to see action. He feels that we should restrict the length of trucks that come into the Borough, or at least past Cannon Square. The steepness of the new viaduct bridge might cause more speeding. He has a video to share with the Board suggesting how a speed cushion at the end of the viaduct might affect speed.

Coast Guard talking about removing buoys leading into the Harbor. This is dangerous because not all boats have navigation onboard.

What can CSO's do while in the Borough. They can issue parking tickets.

Annette Binkowski of SBMA reported that they had received a \$12,000 grant and are therefore returning the \$1,500 they had received.

Resident Frank Tong of 2 Church St. said that he was puzzled about Wayland's Wharf timeline. Warden Schefers said that we are currently in Phase One in which the sidewalk, inner barrier

and fill in the void found will be completed. Phase Two will happen in Fall of 2025. He had a question about composting. Warden Schefers answered that the town is pursuing grants. It will continue this year until July 1 without a grant. He encouraged residents to contact Jill Senior at Town of Stonington Dept of Waste.

Burgess Bowdler requested source of water for the watering of the new grass at Wayland's Wharf. Frank Tong is happy to give water, but Jerry Donovan who is closer should be contacted.

Resident Chuck Hartman of 13 Wall Street brought up concern of underage people parking at the end of Wall Street and at the Point, drinking or using drugs then speeding through the streets of the Borough. He asked if the Board sees it as a problem. Burgess Nicholas said we are working with police to have more converge and to have more presence after Memorial Day at the viaduct. Burgess Nicholas and Warden Schefers to ask police to have late night presence at the Point, Wayland's Wharf, the Town Dock and Wall Street.

Mr. Hartman was not aware of ambulance coverage infrequency. He asked what the mil rate would be to add a full-time ambulance. Burgess Bowdler asked to see the numbers to do this.

Resident Jean Fiore of Cannon Square suggested that cones be put up at private property.

Resident Al Razzano of Main St. asked that Burgess Nicholas ask the police to put a car at the end of Wall Street at least once a week.

Resident Jim Arnold of 3 Broad St. who gets the personal donations made to the ambulance corps? They do. They are independent, not government funded.

Resident Dave Nolan of 21 High Street, asking for a friend who lives on Main Street, how to get two feet of yellow paint on curb. Warden asked that he send a formal email to him.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Storm Resilience and Mitigation

The Board did put additional money in the 2025-26 budget for dredging and pressure washing the drain at the canal. We are looking into grants for this work.

NEW BUSINESS

SVIA Application for 4th of July parade

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the application made by Jamie Lewis on behalf of SVIA to use Main, Water, Broad, High Sts., and Wadawanuck Square on Friday, July 4th from 9:30 am – 11:30 am for the Fourth of July parade, was approved.

PHGS Application for Parking Space on Main St.

Tabled.

Water Street Tree Posting

Tabled. – No email received from Joyce Pandolfi.

State LOCIP payments and carryover transfer to Infrastructure Account

\$9,584.50

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to transfer current balance of State LOCIP payments and carryover, subject to LOCIP and Infrastructure Fund accounting being treated the same, was approved.

Fiscal 2024-2025 budget transfer

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to transfer for Wayland's Wharf Change Orders #1 & #2 in the amount of \$20,000 from Line 1301 to the Infrastructure Fund to pay for additional work on Wayland's Wharf, was approved.

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to transfer for urgent paving repairs (Dog Watch tripping hazards and street curbing at Chesebro St., Wimpheimer Park, and Cemetery) in the amount of \$8,058 from Line 207 to Infrastructure Fund, was approved.

Transfer for Main & Water \$33,075 was tabled.

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to transfer \$7000 from Line 207 to lease the Flock Camera and purchase a Speed Detector, was approved.

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Rogers to transfer \$5,000 for Line 366 new tools and equipment and \$5,000 from Line 509 to the Building Fund for the deposit of the Fire Department Air Conditioning, were approved.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

Following up on Jess Diggs' remark about buoys, Kevin Bowdler will supply a letter to send.

Add to June agenda – clarify the Wayland's Wharf and 72-hour parking in the Borough issue.

Add to June agenda – Dusk to Dawn parking on Wall Street

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:39 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
May 25, 2025

