

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 17, 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, Burgess Bowdler, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. 12 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the monthly meeting of Feb 18, 2025, as amended to read "removing space on Church St and possibly move to Gold and Church St." on page 3, were approved.

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers the votes of the special meeting of Feb 20, 2025, were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

SBMA Funding request for Art Walk

Library Funding request for 2025-2026 Budget

Amanda Barne's request to put Wadawanuck Square tree vote on agenda

Rick Larkin's resignation from Zoning Board of Appeals email

New town cemetery sign on Chesebrough Cemetery at Wimpheimer Park by Elizabeth Wood

Ian Cooke's application

Proposals from CT Main St and Sandy Alexander.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

All deadlines have been met; next is to do the lottery before ballots are printed. Application for absentee ballot is on our website. No word from SOTS office regarding early voting. Election is May 5, 2025.

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT; ARPA UPDATE

Bills for the period February 18, 2025, through March 14, 2025, totaled \$95,402.43. Large bill of note was \$49,219.26 to K.E. Braza for the initial work at Wayland's Wharf. I&E for July 2024 through March 14, 2025, shows total income to date of \$1,452,016.26; and net income to date of \$360,385.54. Balance of ARPA funds is \$4,352.

A discussion was held during the review of bills to vote regarding the purchase of Scott air packs for the fire department. The air packs cost \$27,905.31.

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to waive the bidding process for a purchase over the amount of \$10,000 and to transfer \$30,000 from Line 310 to Fire Department major expense to purchase 3 Scott air packs from MES Shipman's, was unanimously approved.

Burgess Bowdler brought up that we have not received invoices from Nick Kepple.

Warden Schefers talked about Line 343, LOSIP, we are obligated to contribute 36,459, we have budgeted extra money the past two years. He thinks the \$8,000 should be applied to what we owe. Ann Fiore has been asked to apply it. LOSIP will give us a revised yearly contribution for next budget.

WARDEN'S REPORT

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

Attended SCCOG February Meeting.

Met with SBMA and "CT Main Street" in a zoom review of their findings and recommendations.

Met with Wayland's Wharf Contractor and Sue Cordeiro on Construction matters.

Received and reviewed budget input from Fire Chief and Public Safety Commissioner.

Expressed and discussed Borough concerns regarding new trash collection program with Solid Waste Director.

Initiated discussions with Borough Attorney on new Fire Service Agreements. To have Fire Districts pay more in the next year's budget.

Requested release of 2025 State LOCIP funds for the Borough.

The front of Borough Hall will have the handicap accessibility put in.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Schefers)

Conducted Brush Pickup

Reviewed capital street projects for 2025-26 Budget and beyond, with Highway Department and Vendors

Received and reviewed budget input from Highway Department

Installed Public Restroom Signs on Water and Main. Installed new Stop sign on Harmony.

Graded The Point Parking Lot

Ordered Handicap Parking Stanchions for streets

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD Responded to 5 Alarms in February 2025, they were as follows:

- 1) 2-7-25 7:40pm Fire Alarm Activation 94 Water St. (water into a smoke detector)
- 2) 2-13-25 7:28am MVA IFO 330 N. Main St. (dump truck rollover, 1 patient to hospital)
- 3) 2-19-25 8:54pm Fire Alarm Activation 123 Water St. Unit #2 (nothing found)
- 4) 2-27-25 3:43pm Oil Spill Trumbull @ N. Main St. (oil on road from Alpha Ave. to N. Water St. on Trumbull Ave. Contacted DEEP)
- 5) 2-28-25 7:13am Medical Assist with SAC 59 Quana Duck Rd. (lift assist)

January Police Incident Report (Nicholas)

I attended the final TWO meetings of the BOPC subcommittee regarding events. Chief Del Grasso is happy with the communications from the Borough. SPD is looking into installing speed cameras in certain areas of Stonington. This project will take a long time to implement, and we must make our wishes known. We are also putting money in the 2025-26 budget for two flock cameras. We also put another speed sign in the next budget.

We have no level C Events, so the Borough is less of an issue. The final analysis will be presented at the April BOPC meeting.

Chief Hoadley said a brand-new camera has been installed on the Firehouse. There is one on the west side, as well. It will be placed facing the front of the firehouse.

Chief Hoadley asked the Town of Stonington Public Works to put in guardrail on North Main St at the location of the sand/salt truck accident.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Borough Hall

Exciting news! The keypad on the front door is operational. The doors are now automatically locked and unlocked at 7:00am -7pm. Signs have been strategically placed in town to show where the bathroom is located. More will come if we think necessary. We did not put too many signs up. We are being mindful of Visual Pollution.

Some tweaking will be done inside the new bathroom for the sensitivity of the hand-free devices. Note that reflective vests supposedly set off hands-free devices.

Resident Jean Fiore was locked out of the meeting because the front door locks at Boro Hall lock at 7:00 PM.

Another sign for Public Restrooms has been ordered for Pearl and Water. Burgess Rogers requested another sign facing pedestrians on the back of the forward-facing sign on the corner of Water and Church St.

Fire House

Nothing to report.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

I have heard no negative remarks about the new streetlight on the west side of Main Street between Church and Grand Streets.

Regarding trash carts, I have spoken with Jill Senior about the new trash carts, which are 95 gallons each; One for trash, one for recyclables. The new contractor CWPM has bought new trucks which can handle the new carts; Smaller carts do not work with the new trucks. We need to find some alternatives. One choice is locations around the Borough with multiple carts that residents put their yellow bags and recycling; another option is hiring a commercial provider and have dumpsters around the Borough. Burgess Rogers remarked his dismay and disappointment that this is happening in the Borough. Burgess Nicholas mentioned that there is a lack of accountability with separating items with this new system. Burgess Bowdler said the new trucks will send reports to Town of non-complying addresses. Bins are marked with a code of the address which the cart belongs. Burgess Nicholas thinks dumpsters are the way to go. Some suggested, locations are Borough Hall, by the sewerage plant at Town Dock, Wayland's Wharf, under the viaduct, The Point. We must continue for the short term with the 95-gallon carts until an alternative is decided on. Burgess Bowdler is willing to receive calls from folks who do not want the 95-gallon trash cart; he will notify the Town.

Burgess Rogers asked Burgess Bowdler to ask Jill Senior to ask CWPM to retrofit the trucks to accept smaller trashcans.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Jean Fiore of 2 Cannon Square questioned if the new trash carts will have twice a week pickup. The answer is no, we will still have once a week trash pickup, every other week will be recyclable pickup. She also asked about why the speed camera is working incorrectly. Another issue is the flag at Cannon Square getting caught in the nearby tree when the flag is at half-staff. When the pole came down in the recent past it was due to the flag pulling at the tree thereby pulling at the pole. She does not recommend a garbage dumpster put at the Point; we have finally trained everyone to take out what you

bring in; put them in a more industrial location. She complemented the Board on the bathroom in Borough Hall.

Resident Dave Wahl of 18 Water St asked why we are discussing offering choices on trash. He suggests use the new system and if you don't like it, take your trash to the transfer station.

Resident Al Razzano of 25 Water Street relative to the trash can we have all residents take it to the transfer station or hire some smaller, local person to pick up trash and take it to the transfer station. He asked if the speed camera on the Firehouse will be able to send tickets. The answer is no, not yet.

Resident Wendy Kotch of 24 Orchard thanked the Board for the shield on the streetlight. Regarding garbage, think of it as a pilot and find out where the problems are, then adjust.

Resident Chuck Hartman of 13 Elm St. thanked the Board for the shields put on lights on Elm St. He gave kudos on the restroom at Borough Hall. He asked what happens with cars parked on the street when trash is picked up. He asked that no dumpsters be used as a solution. He asked if we are still considering speed cushions, and the answer is yes. He is concerned about teenagers parking at the Point and smoking dope then driving recklessly through the Borough. He asked what the status of the sidewalks is. Warden answered that one section of Water Street in front of the Pandolfi's will be done first to find out the cost to do 100 feet. We still have \$60,000-\$70,000 left over in the budget after Wayland's Wharf work is done. He asked about Pearl St being repaved. The Board will consider are Pearl St., Northwest, Diving St. and Front St. He asked about the holly remaining on Main Street. The homeowner has been cited twice and now fined. She has been told the bushes are being removed. Either Sue or a contractor will do the work.

Resident David Nolan of High Street across from the library asked that a speed cushion be put on High Street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Restroom Update

Remove from Agenda

Storm resilience and mitigation; Wayland's Wharf, Omega ROW and Maplewood Lane

Wayland's Wharf project has begun, Remove Omega ROW in the future., Maplewood Lane water draining is being looked at.

Ian Cooke request for use of Borough Property

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve Ian Cooke's request to use Borough property in front of his house at 69 Main Street for a flower garden no higher than 24", with a 10-foot area at the parking spot planted with low vegetation, with no fencing, passed by majority. Burgess Rogers voted against; Burgess Nicholas abstained.

It will be reviewed it at the December 2025 meeting.

SBMA and Warden request for consideration of Main Street CT funding

Motion made by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Rogers to fund the Main Street CT project. Borough Burgess Bowdler asked what the Borough residents' stakeholding is. Burgess Nicholas wants additional information. Warden will request of SBMA an outline of the methodology. Vote tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote on Wadawanuck Square tree removal

The tree on the Northwest corner of Wadawanuck Square has been posted for two weeks. Burgess Barnes has not received any response.

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to approve the removal of the tree on the Northwest corner of Wadawanuck Square, was unanimously approved.

Burgess Barnes will speak with Kevin of Bartlett regarding the best time to remove the tree.

SBMA Funding request for Art Walk

Annette Binkowski made her pitch for the SBMA Art Walk. The ArtWalk has come to a crossroad. It cannot be covered financially without help. They are reaching out to all Borough Businesses, SVIA, private sector. Asking for volunteers, as well. Burgess Bowdler feels that it has gotten too large and that it is not doing much for the businesses. Annette feels it brings more new people into our Borough and they return later and support the businesses. They are cutting down the cost of the marketing, raising the artist fee and cutting back so only Water Street is used.

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve \$1,500 to SBMA for the 2025 Art Walk, was unanimously approved.

Library Funding request for 2025-2026 Budget

Micayla Hall of the SFL asked for an additional \$1,000 for the 2025-2026 budget.

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas to approve an additional \$1,000 to the Stonington Free Library for the 2025-2026 budget, passed by majority. Burgess Bowdler abstained.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:54 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
March 25, 2025

