

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting – June 20, 2022
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held at Borough Hall and also by way of Zoom conferencing video. Present in Borough Hall in addition to Warden Callahan were Burgesses Shaun Mastroianni and Amanda Barnes and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Kevin Rogers participated by Zoom. Burgess Amy Nicholas was absent.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 16, 2022, were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Stonington Historical Society, application for July Fourth parade.
- b. COMO, application for annual Village Fair on Wad Square.
- c. NESS regarding recent bus drop-off problem.
- d. PHGS application for reserved parking spaces at 26 Main St.
- e. State of Connecticut, notification of future (2026) project on viaduct.
- f. SBMA, application to install small banners on viaduct light poles.

MEETINGS/HEARINGS: None

OTHER: None

OUTGOING: None.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER: NONE

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period May 15, 2022 through June 17, 2022 totaled \$112,713.79. One large bill of note was for the Water Street paving. Net income as of June 17, 2022 is \$156,925.37. We are in the last month of the fiscal year.

WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Attended May SCCOG monthly meeting
2. Met with new SPD Chief, Captain Olsen, Commissioner Nicholas to discuss Borough enforcement.
3. Met with Lisa Tepper Bates and Kevin Bowdler regarding comfort station project.
4. Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have decreased compared to last month, while total deaths now total 676. State positivity rate has dropped from a high of 15% last month to 7.5%.

5. FY-22 audit has begun.
6. Met with CLA Engineers regarding of storm water infrastructure assessment.
7. Phoenix Grimes has taken a job with Town Highway Department. Borough position was posted on Indeed and generated many applications, including several promising candidates.
8. Met with Eversource (with Shaun) to discuss possible EV charging station locations.

BOROUGH CLOCK – None

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Callahan)

1. Conducted monthly brush pickup
2. Water Street paving completed on schedule
3. Continued spring streets cleanup
4. Refreshed painted crosswalks
5. Cleaned up parks

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to seven alarms in May 2022, they were as follows:

- 1) 5-5-22 9:08pm Medical assist with SAC 3 Gold St. (help gain access)
- 2) 5-10-22 11:13am Medical assist with SAC 13 Lambert's Lane (lift assist)
- 3) 5-10-22 6:15pm Odor of propane gas 88 Water St. (nothing found)
- 4) 5-11-22 6:25am Fire Alarm activation 26 Church St. Boro Hall (air freshener)
- 5) 5-18-22 3:16pm Fire Alarm activation 107 Water St. (water flow, 10-minute delay)
- 6) 5-27-22 3:35pm Structure Fire 260 N. Water St. (cake in oven, clean cycle)
- 7) 5-31-22 3:11pm Fire Alarm activation 123 Water St. (food left cooking on stove)

For the third year in a row, Captain Hoadley has contacted the Coast Guard for signs at the end of the breakwater at Stonington Commons. He will give Warden Callahan all of the contact information and the Warden will contact the Coast Guard.

Police Incident Report (Nicholas)

May's report has not been received. April's report had a total of 51 incidents. There were 9 Burglar Alarms 7 of which were false, 9 Building/Bank Checks, 8 Medical Assists, 3 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 3 Assist Other Agencies, 3 Animal Control, 2 Initiate Patrol, 2 Disturbances and 2 Assist Citizens. There was one incident each of Domestic, Fire Related Call, Lost Item, Welfare Check, Larceny, Animal Bite, 911 Hang up, Alarm Not Registered, Loud Music and Raffle Application.

The Warden and I met with the new Police Chief and the Captain. We are exploring the safety of speed bumps. The CSOs have started walking around the Borough. It should be noted that they can communicate with dispatch.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

Met with arborist from Bartlett. There is a beech tree leaf disease effecting the trees in the Borough. Unfortunately, the beech trees in the Borough will die. The disease takes from 2-8 years to kill the tree.

Public Buildings (Mastroianni)

The comfort station subcommittee has met twice now to discuss fundraising.

Utilities & Sanitation (Rogers)

Sent out eight notes on trash compliance this month. Contacted Teresa regarding the redundant poles on Water Street and they have been replaced.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Marenakos brought up the increasing problem with bus parking at NESS. There are coach busses and school busses causing traffic and diesel fume problems. She feels that busses should use the bus stop at Wad Square. The Warden will contact Spike Lobdell to clarify his letter discuss options for reducing congestion in front of NESS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status of COVID-19 in region and State

See Warden’s Report above

Discuss memorial plaques, trees etc.

Tabled

Cannabis use on public/Borough property

Tabled. Talking with Borough Attorney on Friday.

Consider Sandra Fromson’s offer of a bench for Wad Square

Warden Callahan will send an email, CC’d to Burgess Barnes, and discuss the bench placement with Ms. Fromson.

Discuss Ordinance enforcement mechanism

Tabled. Talking with Borough Attorney on Friday.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider requests to use Borough property

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve the request by Stonington Historical Society to use Main St., Broad St., Water Street and Wadawanuck Square for the annual Fourth of July Parade and reading of the Declaration of Independence, on Monday, July 4, 2022 from 9:30 am – 11:30 am., was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the request by the Stonington Community Center to use Wad Square from 11 am-4 pm and a part of High Street directly across from the front of the Library from 8 am-6 pm for the 70th Annual Village Fair on Saturday, August 6th, 2022, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Warden Callahan, to approve the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society’s request to use parking spaces in front of 26 Main Street for Friday fundraisers from 4 pm- 8 pm, during the month of July 2022, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the Stonington Borough Merchant Association’s request to use eight viaduct light poles to hang a series of banners, subject to Town of Stonington written approval and with input on the design from the Board, beginning September 2022, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to give permission for one food truck and one ice cream truck on Main Street during the "Pup Fest" on Saturday October 1, 2022 from 12-3 pm, was unanimously approved.

Consider transfers among budget line items as per Borough Charter

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve transfers among FY-21-22 budget line items per Borough Charter chapter 8 was unanimously approved. The transfers are as follows: from line 104 to line 312-\$1000; from line 104 to line 125 - \$1,000; from line 105 to line 801 - \$1,000; from line 108 to line 321-\$6000; from line 122 to line 125-\$3000; from line 144 to line 125-\$1800; from line 243 to line 241-\$1800; from line 257 to line 801 - \$2,000; from line 304 to line 509-\$3000; from line 317 to line 610-\$12,000; from line 342 to line 312-\$4000; from line 343 to line 312-\$1500; from line 363 to line 509-\$5000; from line 604 to line 610-\$3000; from line 611 to line 610-\$8000; from line 612 to line 610-\$10,000; from line 802 to line 610-\$4000.

Discuss Traffic Committee recommendations

The signage and painting have been improved. The speed monitor will be installed soon. There is a proposal to change Union Street to one way going east so a left-hand turn cannot be made from Water St. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Appoint a search/selection committee for Highway Department position

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to appoint Shaun Mastroianni, Sue Cordeiro, Amanda Barnes and Jeff Callahan as members of the search/selection committee for the Highway Department position, was unanimously approved. The committee members received copies of the applications. The committee will meet next week to select candidates to interview.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman

June 28, 2022