Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Sept 21, 2026
REGULAR 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 Amanda Barnes, Kevin Rogers, Amy Nicholas, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Kevin Bowdler was absent. Approximately 25 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the monthly meeting of August 17, 2026, were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

Merrill House Literary Festival
K. Bowdler Flock Camera Email
Luiza Agular Curb Cut Email
Brendan Kolnick revised Curb Cut Plan
Deputy Chief Email on Large Trucks
PHGS Application for Advent Fish & Chips
Emails regarding Flock cameras

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period August 27, 2026, through September 20, 2026, totaled $68,646.31. Large bills of note were for $5,100.00 to Flock Group, $2,620.00 to Superior Sewer and Drain Service for flushing out Orchard and Maple drain, $18,762.00 to Glatfelter Ins. for Fire Dept, $2,260.34 to ESO Solutions for Firehouse Software, and a payment in the amount of $6,624.00 to O'Connor Davies for audit. I&E for September 2026 through June 30, 2027, shows total income to date of $1,522,356; and net income to date of $994,160.

Current YTD Balance Sheet
BOROUGH OF STONINGTON
As of September 21, 2026

Distribution account	Total
1501 Dime - Infrastructure	$179,290.91
1502 Dime - Building Fund	$51,674.89
1503 Dime - Truck Fund	$25,271.08
1504 Dime – Fire Dept. Major Exp.	$48,989.80

Total for Dime - Due to Others	$305,226.68
Total for 1000 Dime Bank Checking Act.	$201,615.14
1200 Dime Investment AC	$1,554,574.09
Total for Bank Accounts	$1,756,189.23

WARDEN'S REPORT

Attended SECOG and SEAT Meetings
Met with Chief Martin on SBFD matters
Meeting with Chiefs and Public Safety Commissioner scheduled for 9/23
Selectman's Flock Camera Meeting 9/23. Amy and Michael are attending
Revised P&Z Regulations were published taking effect Fri 9/18

Street and Sidewalks Commissioner Report (Schefers)

Conducted Monthly Brush Pickup
Completed Seasonal Street and Crosswalk Painting
Ordered No Parking signs for Point Parking
Conducted ongoing Park mowing and maintenance
No Fence company request for quotes received
Completed 20MPH at designated locations
Completed Sidewalk repairs on Water and Main
FY26/27 Paving (Northwest St. & Ash St.) scheduled for 10/5 per Capital Improvement Program.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Martin)

There were thirteen alarms in August 2026 (9 in the Borough). They were as follows:

Incident Date	Primary Incident Type	Location Address
8/1/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	24 ELM Street
8/6/26	Lift assist	32 WATER Street
8/11/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	1 CHESEBRO LA
8/11/26	Citizen assist / service call	103 MAIN Street
8/12/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	1 CARRIAGE Drive
8/16/26	Lift assist	23 Briar Patch Rd.
8/19/26	Hazardous material release (Chemical from fixed cility)	9 CHURCH Street
8/19/26	Malfunctioning alarm	24 PEARL Street
8/23/26	Accidental alarm	5 MAIN Street
8/23/26	CO alarm	123 WATER Street

8/24/26	Low angle rescue	1 Water Street
8/29/26	Standby (public service)	70 ALPHA Avenue
8/30/26	Accidental alarm	19 Wolcott Avenue

There were a series of incidents in the Borough the weekend of August 21. The perpetrators were quickly caught by the Stonington Police Department. There continue to be dogs off leash and parking in the yellow. I have already ticketed people.

Commendations from the Board of Warden and Burgesses were given to Bonnie Cannon and Shelby XXXXX in recognition of their assistance with the fire on Diving Street on June 4, 2026.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

The ginkgo tree on Water St. was removed last week. Heavy pruning of the tree on eastern corner of Main and High St. Warden Schefers mentioned that many trees split during the icing and storms this past winter. If you see that anywhere email the Parks, Trees and Rights of Way Burgess Barnes to let her know. The tree at the viaduct has not been done yet. Bartlett is still working on a long list of items.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Borough Hall

There are no new items to report regarding Borough Hall at this time.

Firehouse

The air-conditioning issues previously reported at the Firehouse have been resolved. 72 Degrees replaced the faulty components at their own expense, and the necessary work has been completed.

I recently conducted a walkthrough of the Firehouse with Chief Martin. During the walkthrough, we reviewed the current list of building maintenance and repair items requiring attention. The necessary repairs are now being scheduled and will be addressed over the coming weeks and months.

I look forward to working with Chief Martin as we continue to maintain and care for the Firehouse. Chief Martin, like Chief Hoadley before him, has demonstrated a strong respect for the building and an understanding of the importance of its continued maintenance and preservation.

I will continue to monitor the scheduled work and provide updates to the Board as appropriate.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

None

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Alissa Bass of 203 N. Main St. thanked the Board for being the First section of Stonington to put Flock cameras on their agenda. She read aloud her statement on the Flock Cameras:

Thank you for being the first governing body in the town of Stonington to put Flock on its agenda for a public discussion.

For the last six weeks I've been learning as much as I can about Flock and all other Automated License Plate Readers. And every day I learn a little more, but what I am learning more than anything is that what we don't know about this technology and its ramifications far outweigh what we do know.

In Stonington, we don't know when these cameras went up. We don't know the reasoning behind their locations or their positioning. We don't know anything about any of the 14 cameras that are installed across our town. The police have never talked publicly in advance of getting these cameras and have never talked publicly since.

This is why I am urging everyone to hit the pause button on these cameras until we can have full transparency. The where, when, why and how questions need to be answered publicly. The full ramifications of this technology and the fact it is controlled by a private company that itself is obstructionist need to be fully explored.

Are we safer with these cameras? In Atlanta, Ga. - the most surveilled city in America with 28,000+ cameras across multiple platforms including 5,000+ Flocks - crime clearance rates have not meaningfully increased with these devices, according to data collected by the FBI. Despite the eightfold growth of Atlanta's cameras between 2021 and 2026, their clearance rate across eight major crime categories has remained relatively unchanged.

Norwich and Putnam both have "Flock transparency portals" on their websites. Stonington does not. According to these portals, those departments provide unfettered access to their Flock data to the FBI and the US Postal Service and 175 other police departments across CT, RI, MA, NY. I'm assuming Stonington does as well, it seems pretty standard. But we actually have no idea who Stonington allows to view its data.

We are right to be concerned. No one has seen the contracts the police have signed with Flock - our FOI request has yet to be fulfilled. No one knows the full cost to taxpayers. No one understands where this data lives or who can access it or who owns it. No one understands what it means that the Flock AI can create a "pattern of life" for any license plate it records.

Hit pause. Let's take a collective community breath and work to figure out what ALPRs mean for our community, our state, our country and our rights as Americans. Do they make us safer? Do they make our community better? We are still far from having the answers to those questions and many more.

Resident Casey Malcolm of 8 Denison Ave. asked if the Town of Stonington Selectman's Wednesday meeting is open to the public. Yes, it is. Does the Borough have jurisdiction to make its decision about the use of flock cameras separate from the Town? We have the right to make the decision over where they were put in the Borough. She also read aloud her statement:

Per my memo, I am requesting that an open meeting regarding Flock Cameras be scheduled for residents. An open meeting allows everyone to ask questions, voice concerns, and participate in the decision-making process.

ALPR such as Flock Cameras are devices that directly affect our community's privacy, safety, and trust. These cameras record every vehicle that passes, not just suspects, logging plate, time, and location. Additionally, Flock Cameras record license plate numbers, state of origin, vehicle make, model, color, bumper stickers, bike racks, roof racks, and dents and scratches.

There are published reports of abuse as well as security and privacy issues. Additionally, there are reports of false positives with one reported as high as 71% of 1,427 alerts flagged as stolen or felony vehicles between 2023 and 2024. These errors reported by the Roseville CA Police Department applied strictly to the **subset of alerts generated** and not the millions of license plates scanned without incidents.

It's important that residents understand how these cameras work, who has access to the collected information, and how our data is protected.

Transparency is key to maintaining community trust and ensuring that technology is used responsibly in our town. By coming together, we can make informed choices that balance public safety with our right to privacy. Let's have a conversation that includes all viewpoints before moving forward with the continuing use and funding of Flock Cameras.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Resident Al Razzano of 25 Main St. said that October 1, 2026, CT will enact legislation that will answer many of the questions we have about Flock cameras. He encourages us all to look at the legislation so

that we are educated with the new laws enacted in the State before we make rash decisions about what we want to do. He pointed that our cell phones already gather and share so much data. We have all missed the boat on data privacy.

Resident Jim Andrus of 41 Orchard St. said that insurance companies are now buying this data, too. He thinks the data is not being deleted. The only way to stop it from being shared is by not collecting it to begin with. He said that over the years Wayland's Wharf has become more of a swimming spot. He suggested to not go to the Borough attorney.

Resident Craig Rowley of 19 Summit Street does not see the annual meeting posted. Votes were posted. Asked that a sandwich board be put on the East side of the Borough for date and time of Monthly W&B meetings.

Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 School St. asked why the surface of the viaduct is being on the viaduct. His concern is that the powers to be will then look for additional problems with the lower part of the bridge. Warden Schefers suggested that Jesse call the Town Engineer concerning this.

Resident Jessica Morrissey of 46 Broad Street asked questions about where the money came to buy the Flock cameras and who approved the expense? Warden Schefers answered that the money was under Public Safety in the FY26-27 Budget. The Budget was approved at the 2026 annual meeting. She also asked if we decide to rescind the cameras, how can that be done.

Resident Wendy Kotch of 41 Orchard St. asked when we will address the flock cameras. It will be addressed under Unfinished Business. She also mentioned that the drain is working.

Resident Chuck Hartman of 13 Elm St. said that he had sent an email to Warden Schefers regarding the drunkenness of boaters around Wayland's Wharf. He suggested there be an improved sign that reads that Wayland's Wharf is used by boats and swimmers. He suggested that another ladder be placed on the east side. Warden has asked Sue to look at a ladder placement on the west side. Warden commented that over the years the signs reading NO SWIMMING have been removed and he will speak with Borough attorney for an opinion on swimming at Wayland's Wharf. He also asked where the flock cameras are in the Borough. They are on each end of the viaduct.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Diving Street Curb Cut

Brendan Kolnick returned to the Board with a new curb cut application. One resident sent an email concerned with the curb cut. Burgess Rogers stated that he appreciated the homeowner listening to the feedback and comments and came back with a revised plan.

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Rogers to approve the revised application made by Brendan Kolnick for a curb cut at 9-11 Diving Street, subject to be rescinded in the future if off street parking is not used, passed by majority. Burgess Nicholas recused.

Viaduct Update

There will be another meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. Amtrak will propose the final recommendation for the repair of the viaduct. Amtrak is now evaluating the fencing being modified. Burgess Rogers asked that similar fencing to what is now there.

Stormwater Management Update
Warden has heard nothing back from the State of CT regarding East Grand, he will continue to pursue them.

Status of Borough Traffic Committee Report Recommendations
We have implemented everything but the pedestrian crossing at the base of the viaduct.
Casey Malcolm asked that we get some data from the speed monitors. We have purchased a second camera which will collect data. The speed camera on High St. does collect data. Burgess Barnes thinks that the triangle at the end of viaduct might be painted larger or brighter or made of a different surface.

Flock Camera Discussion
Warden has tabled further discussion on flock cameras until the Burgesses have participated in the Town of Stonington Selectman's meeting. After that we will hold a public hearing at LaGrua Center on flock cameras in the Borough.

Truck Parking on Water Street
Bill Griffen of Stonington Inn would like to have Stonington Inn, Breakwater, Owner of SHYC and Board of Stonington Commons meet. He recommends to lobby Stonington Commons to make the north side of the parking lot available for drop off.

NEW BUSINESS
PUBLIC COMMENT (#2) Before Votes
None

Merrill Request
On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the application made by James Merrill House to use Borough Hall located at 26 Church Street, Stonington, CT for the Stonington Literary Festival workshop with speakers on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., was unanimously approved.

PHGS Request
On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the application made by the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society to use two parking spaces in front of PHGS, 26 Main Street for pickup of orders and elderly drop off for the Fish and Chips Fundraiser each Friday from October 2nd through Nov 20th from 11 a.m. through 6:30 p.m., was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION
Burgess Rogers asked if anything has been done with the strip of grass in front of Ian Cooke's house. It needs to be reseeded. He also suggested the other tree in front of the house on the corner of Church and Main St. be planted.

Burgess Nicholas mentioned that SVIA will come to the Board to close part of Water Street on Halloween.

ADJOURNMENT
On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:28 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
October 13, 2026