

Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
April 21, 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. Approximately 36 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 March 17, 2025, were approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

RECEIVED:

Mama Emily's Sweet Treats, Permit application  
Request for donation from Stonington Human Services Summer Hoops  
Numerous Emails on Trash Collection  
Letter from Main Street on Workshop Description.

**ADD ITEMS TO AGENDA**

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to add Mama Emily's Sweet Shop and Stonington Human Services Summer Hoops under New Business on the agenda, was approved.

**TRASH COLLECTION DISCUSSION**

The town has contracted with CWPM for the large 95-gallon bins. It works for the vast majority of Stonington; however, it was acknowledged that the Borough was not one of those towns. CWPM has agreed to pick up yellow bags. And, that the Borough will be semi-automated process because of the sidewalks and cars parked on the road. The truck is split down the middle, half for recycling, half for trash. One person will be out of the truck, the other will be a driver. The person out of the truck will decide whether to use the bin lifter or pull the yellow bag out of bins and lift into the truck. We can have whatever we want, as long as we are willing to pay for it.

48-gallon bins will be an option as soon as the bins are available.

This is the first week where we go to every two-week recyclable pick up (on Thursday). Every week trash pick-up will be held on Thursday for the next few weeks until a resolution has been made.

3.5% of town residences rejected to the 95-gallon bin. The Borough had 20% residences reject the 95 gallons.

Janet Vaskas of Water St. asked about yellow bags and was told she could continue putting yellow bags out at 6 am on Thursday mornings. She was also concerned about every two-week recycling pick up. It was explained by Burgess Bowdler that the decision was made that the smell of trash was the reason for not having once every two week pick up of trash.

Penny Duckham of Main St feels the green bag pick up should continue. Green bags pick up will continue until June 30<sup>th</sup>, there is a possibility the program will continue if/when the Town gets a grant. Residents should contact Jill Senior at Solid Waste.

Peter Perenyi of Main St. thanked us for all of the work towards getting a system that works and asked for collection clarification.

Sibby Lynch of Water St. asked about the pink bags. She asked that if the issue come up, to encourage the town to do it.

Jesse Diggs of School St. explained that while watching the pick-up it takes just minutes.

Resident Al Razzano asked if there is a plausible plan that the Borough residents could go out on our own and find a trash service. Warden said to wait perhaps six months to see how the current system flushes out and then see what a separate system would cost.

There is no penalty for leaving bins out on the sidewalk. They could be out to be picked up by Solid Waste.

Resident Genna Cottrell asked if our town taxes are going down because the trash pick-up is costing. That is right.

#### **REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER**

All SOTS deadlines have been met. Application for absentee ballot is on our website. Absentee ballot will be available later this week. List of registered voters obtained from Registrars of voters. Election is May 5, 2025.

#### **REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT; ARPA UPDATE**

Bills for the period March 18, 2025, through April 18, 2025, totaled \$88,100.64. Large bills of note were for fire hydrants from Aquarion Water, Evergreen Landscape for handicapped accessible sidewalks in front of Borough Hall and leveling the sidewalks on Water St between High and Broad St., Scott air packs for fire department, and LOSIP retirement funds. I&E for July 2024 through April 18, 2025, shows total income to date of \$1,455,290.90; and net income to date of \$251,548.71. Balance of ARPA funds is \$4,352.

#### **WARDEN'S REPORT**

Met with First Selectman Danielle Chesbrough on shared local items of interest.

Attended March and April SCCOG Legislature Meetings.

Attended SEAT Board Meeting.

Met with Amy and Police Chief and Deputy on Speed cushions and Borough Traffic and Speed matters.

Completed new Fire Service Agreements with Borough Attorney and Fire District Presidents.

Completed Draft Budget for submittal to Burgesses.

51 Main St. holly will be cut back by the Borough highway department.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

##### **Streets & Sidewalks (Scheffers)**

Conducted Brush Pickup

Installed numerous Borough signs.

Repaired and realigned sidewalk slates between Broad and High streets.

Patched Street potholes

Completed Borough Hall handicapped sidewalks and Garage apron.

##### **Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)**

SBFD responded to 8 Alarms in March 2025 (4 of which were in the Borough), they were as follows:

- 1) 3-6-25 11:51pm Fire Alarm Activation 348 N. Main St. (candle)
- 2) 3-11-25 6:22pm Wires down Grandview Park @ Watch Hill Ave. (cable tv)
- 3) 3-15-25 1:46pm MVA IFO 85 Main St. (MV vs Fire hydrant, no injuries)
- 4) 3-16-25 9:30am Oil leaking from a Pick-up truck 522 Stonington Rd., Shell station, (brand new pick-up)
- 5) 3-16-25 7:25pm Fire Alarm Activation 7 Temple St. (burnt food)
- 6) 3-21-25 4:15 Wires down across driveway 39 Shawondassee Dr. (utility wires)
- 7) 3-27-25 9:18pm Fire Alarm Activation 22 Broad St., St. Mary's Church (front west stairwell filled with smoke, heater motor burned up)
- 8) 3-31-25 8:15pm Possible oil in water behind 50 Harbor View Terrace, (pollen)

#### **March Police Incident Report (Nicholas)**

The Warden and I met with Chief Del Grasso regarding Speed Cushions. He is working on developing a process for requesting Speed Cushions. We are hoping to propose Cushions at the May BOPC. I attended the last BOPC which detailed the process for approving events in Stonington. Level C events are now capped at 10 a calendar year for the Town of Stonington. As an FYI, the Borough currently has no level C events. Michael and I will be meeting Friday with Spike to discuss parking issues related to drop off and pick up of NESS students. Finally, residents of the Commons and other interested parties have requested a stop sign for Northbound traffic at the corner of Water and the Southern side of Cannon Square. We are exploring solutions to issues for the residents and visitors. In addition, we have asked for 10 four-hour shifts for stepped up enforcement. Today there were 13 people pulled over, two given infractions, 11 were given warnings at the corner of Main and Water. They will be located at other places in the Borough. Warden and I met with NESS. They have been given permission to drop off participants in the Common parking lot.

#### **Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)**

I met with Kevin Mucha from Bartlett. He and I discussed the trees that must be planted to replace the trees that were removed on Broad and Cliff Streets last fall. We are thinking about one small-ish tree (maybe a kousa dogwood) for Broad Street and something taller for Cliff Street. He is looking at trees at nurseries and will keep me posted. I received a request from one of the owner tenants at 176 Water Street to prune the tulip tree away from the house. We evaluated the tree, and it is not at all close to the house and doesn't need to be pruned at the moment. As always, we are keeping our eyes on the village's many beautiful trees for any maintenance needs. Fyi, there is a tall pine behind the United Church that is going to be taken down. This is not a Borough tree, but I want to mention it, so that people understand that and are aware.

Estimate from Chris Curran for approximately \$3,000 to repair five areas on the carriages on the cannons. He would like to do the work in July.

#### **Public Buildings (Rogers)**

##### **Borough Hall**

Inspection of the boiler is scheduled in May.

A new ADA concrete apron was created outside Borough Hall. Bravo Warden Schefers.

A new, small Welcome Sign will be hung near the front door of Borough Hall. The sign will briefly explain the public bathroom is inside and to SIMPLY turn the knob and pull. It has come to our attention that the keypad above the knob may be intimidating to some. Easy fix.

We are considering more bathroom signs but will be watching for summer to see where the need will be. I ask that people email me of locations for signs that might be put up.

## **Fire House**

Nothing to report. A/C project on hold

## **Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)**

Nothing other than what was discussed earlier under trash collection report

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Joe Larkin of 131 Elm St. asked about 72-hour parking in the Borough. He clarified that once a car is parked more than 72 hours you can contact the police who begin their own 72 hours after they put the sticker on the car. He also asked for parking spot lines on Grand St between Water and Gold. This issue has been taken under advisement. Please do the work on the cannons after July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.

Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 School St. thanked the Board for their service. He asked that we consider resident parking stickers. Consider speed cushions on south Water Street. Regarding air-conditioning in the Borough firehouse, consider 2 air units as an interim alternative. The bathrooms in Borough Hall look great.

Resident Alan Vaskas of Water St. questioned if the \$30,000 for Wayland's Wharf is for the complete. Warden answered that \$90,000 is the complete.

Resident Al Razzano of Main Street asked that we remove driver's license from Emily's Sweet Treats application.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Storm Resilience and Mitigation**

A lot of federal funding has been cut including Federal and State BRIC grants (Resilience Infrastructure). Finding money for these projects is becoming more difficult since additional cuts from the new administration are coming.

### **SBMA and Warden request for consideration of CT Main Street funding.**

Business Nicholas asked how many members of SBMA are participating in this. Sandy Alexander answered that there is a committee of five who meet monthly, the next phase will be to have CT Main St come in and hold a stakeholder meeting, then make a list of stakeholders and have a brainstorming session.

Burgess Nicholas asked if this includes Borough East (Velvet Mill). Sandy Alexander answered yes.

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to allocate \$3,500 to the SBMA for CT Main Street funding, taken from Line 207 – CRS Professional Services, was approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2025/2026 Budget Discussion and Approval**

Budget copies are in the agenda package. The budget has been reviewed with the burgesses. There is an extra \$150,000 in Major Projects due to monies for sidewalks for the town was given to the Borough. There is a very slight increase in the mill rate. Changes for the year: Audit is more expensive, Professional services is going down, increases for health costs, legal notices, COLA for employees, donation to ambulance association and library, legal services for Planning and Zoning, janitorial services, doggie bags, tree maintenance, and police public safety.

The capital improvements for 25-26 include \$130,00 for street paving, \$50,000 for sidewalks repairs, \$30,000 for Wayland's Wharf repairs. 27-28 Front St from Broad to the cul-de-sac, draining of Front St., Sidewalk repairs.

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to accept the proposed 25-26 Budget and the proposed 2025-2029 Capital Improvements, were approved.

**Recommendation to reallocate overrun (negative) of Wayland's Wharf fund to infrastructure Reserve Fund and delete line from Borough Account**

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to reallocate the negative amount of Wayland's Wharf to Infrastructure Reserve Fund and delete Wayland's Wharf Fund from the Borough account, was approved.

**Recommendation to move remaining Public Restroom funds to Building Fund and delete Public Restroom from the Borough Account.**

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to move remaining Public Restroom funds to Building Fund and delete Public Restroom from the Borough account was approved.

**Approval of Date of Annual Meeting (April 26, 2025)**

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the date of the 2025 Annual meeting to be held on April 26, 2025, at 10 am in Borough Hall, was approved.

**Mama Emily's Sweet Treats**

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve the request by Emily Logan to bring her ice cream truck to the Point to serve ice cream to beach occupants throughout the summer season, was approved.

**Request for donation from Stonington Human Services Summer Hoops**

Denied.

**OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:51 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa M. Coleman  
April 22, 2025

