

Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
Regular Monthly Meeting July 15, 2024  
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, Kevin Bowdler, Amy Nicholas, and Amanda Barnes, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Approximately 13 members of the public were present.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes of the monthly meeting of June 17, 2024, were approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

RECEIVED:

PGHS application Feast of the Holy Ghost

COMO application for Stonington Village Fair

Aundré Bumgardner email on Borough Solar installation considerations

Various Emails re: EV Charging Station Opinions

**REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER**

None

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

Bills for the period June 14 through July 12, 2024 totaled \$79,448.78. I&E for July 2023 through June 2024 was included in the package with total income over budget by \$78,871.35 and net income over budget by \$131,845.09.

I&E through July 12, 2024 shows total revenue to date of \$2,248.00; and net income to date of -\$34,667.08. Balance of ARPA funds is \$76,322.17.

**WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

Attended SSCOG Meeting and Seat Board Meeting

Signed 2024-2025 Fire District Fire Service Agreements

Met with Architect and Burgess Rogers to review Public Restrooms Bids

Met with Fuss and O'Neil Engineering on Borough Storm Management and Mitigation issues

Met with Borough Highway and Town Public Works to conduct flushing of Water St. Stormwater Drain

Attended SBMA and SECTer meeting on Borough Merchant concerns

Attended Town Emergency Management Meeting on Storm Season

Met with Police Chief and Burgess Nicholas. A plan will be put together by September regarding speed cushions. Approval will have to be gotten from State of CT Department of Transportation and National Highway Transportation Authority.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

### **Streets & Sidewalks (Schefers)**

Conducted monthly brush pickup.

Continued Park maintenance.

Continued Street painting.

Began Street sweeping

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

SBFD responded to 12 Alarms in June 2024, they were as follows:

- 1) 6-10-24 7:08pm Fire Alarm Activation 229 N. Main St. (nothing found)
- 2) 6-16-24 1:12pm Fire Alarm Activation 1 Grand St. (burned hamburger)
- 3) 6-17-24 8:56pm MVA School & Trumbull St. (hit & run, hydrant & pole)
- 4) 6-18-24 10:29am Fire Alarm Activation 17 Hancox St. (workers)
- 5) 6-19-24 10:57am Fire Alarm Activation 11 East Neck Rd. (workers)
- 6) 6-19-24 12:05pm Fire Alarm Activation 194 Water St. Dog Watch (kitchen ventilation fan)
- 7) 6-20-24 6:02pm Boat in distress Stonington Harbor (nothing found)
- 8) 6-21-24 7:30pm Odor of gas 17 Hancox St. (ethyl mercaptan from underground tank)
- 9) 6-21-24 7:42pm Wires arcing IFO 2 Stanton Rd. (EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 10) 6-25-24 4:21pm Fire Alarm Activation 151 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd. (workers)
- 11) 6-26-24 3:34pm Structure Fire 1 Front St. (candle set countertop on fire)
- 12) 6-30-24 6:35pm Fire Alarm Activation 242 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd. (broken water pipe)

### **June Police Incident Report**

The police have asked us to look into 2 Flock cameras on the viaduct to deter crime. Each are \$3,000. Also, to look into Ring cameras. There are a lot of parking issues and July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend was very bad. A request was made of the Stonington Police that CSO's be able to ticket.

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

I followed up with Doug Rice about his statue, but we have not yet determined a new location. Doug is not happy with the idea of moving his sculpture for Ukraine to the location by the fire station. If anyone has other ideas about placement, please let me know.

Megan from Bartlett would be happy to meet with us via Zoom in September to discuss ideas for broader planning for Borough trees. I will ask her once more if there's any chance she could get to an evening meeting in person. She and I will be meeting to discuss replacement trees for Broad Street and Church Street.

I met with Angela Kanabis and Megan from Bartlett about the trees/sidewalks surrounding Angela's property on the corner of Gold and Pearl Streets. Angela is putting together a formal proposal for updated sidewalks and perhaps some new trees. She will be in touch soon.

I met with Elizabeth Johnstone and Kirby Williams at Wayland's Wharf to discuss their proposal to expand and improve the existing rain garden. They are hoping to attend our August meeting to discuss.

Bill Fowler of 84 Water Street has reached out to request pruning of the two trees in front of his home. I have reached out to Bartlett.

Discussion continued on a Master Plan of our Borough trees. It would be helpful to me if the public and the Warden and Burgesses send me their ideas and questions about trees for the arborist. As well, send me questions regarding the Rights of Way.

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

**Cannons** – The granite has been successfully installed. A special thank you to Curran Construction, Buzzi Memorial, Ness and our very own highway department for amazing teamwork. The wheels are now safely hung about 1cm above the ground in order to keep the wheels from bearing any weight of the cannon. I also had the team sink a large anchor bolt to secure each of the cannon’s tail ends to their granite pads. Curran Construction will keep a watchful eye on the cannons and rotate them each year. They will also help maintain the wood of the carriages.

A new set of wheels will probably have to be made in a few years for the cannon on the west side of the square.

**Borough Hall’s Public Restroom** – Warden Schefers, Julia Leeming and I met and discussed the bids for the bathroom project. I called the references of Yankee Remodeler and John O’Keefe’s references.

The estimates for both firms were very close in their detailed bids. Both firms were highly recommended by the references I called. Thank you to all three companies, both construction and Security firms that made bids on the job.

Boro Hall hosts many meetings all year round. I would like to price out new ceiling fan possibilities to keep our volunteer boards happy and cool while they help keep the Borough running smoothly.

**Firehouse** – I met with some of the volunteer fire fighters while I was visiting the very successful, Touch A Truck event that was held on July 4th. They expressed their biggest need for the building is to find a solution to the hot temperature inside the building. I then chatted briefly with the Chief and he said he would love for me to investigate putting in split systems to cool down the very hot building. They are all mostly volunteers, and we want to enlist more to join. I want to move forward and make the firehouse comfortable for our local heroes to learn, work out, rest and eat as a unit.

Burgess Barnes brought up the issue of bumps in Cannon Square and Wadawanuck Square brought to the Burgesses’ attention by Sue Cordeiro.

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

**Sanitation** – I issued 6 warning citations this month. In the last 18 months, we have issued 67 trash citations which covers about 10% of Borough properties! Education is an ongoing issue. We have a meeting with Frank Crandall and Jill Senior scheduled. Let’s discuss trash collection times because it will have a big impact on our existing ordinance and on people’s behaviors if the collection time is made too early. **The contract time is 6:30 am to have trash out and the bags can be put out after 6 am, unless in a covered bin.**

**Portaloos at the Playground** – We have paid the deposit to get on the schedule for Luther Fence. It will not happen until August. The landscaping will not be done until the fence is installed. It may make more sense to do the landscaping in September so that the plants have a better chance of survival.

**EV Chargers** – I spoke to Danielle Chesebrough about EV Chargers at Town Dock. She believes that the Selectman would be supportive of EV Charges at Town Dock, connected to the Town’s electric meter. It would need approval from the Waterfront Commission and SNEFLA. Her recommendation was that we see if we can go 50/50 on the cost with the Town which would require support from the Board of Finance. To date, the BOF has rejected the Towns request for funding, but this was because the locations proposed were not very good (Town Hall) and the original proposal was to give the electric charge away for free. The BoF may look more favorably at a request for Town Dock and splitting the cost 50/50 with the Borough.

The merchants are supportive of EV chargers, but most agree that Town Dock would be the most logical location. Ditto with the Cultural District and Lobster Trap Tree people.

No word has been received on the \$20,000 credit. Multiple scenarios will play out when a decision is made on the \$20,000 credit program. We can make a decision at that time, or we could get a quote for Town Dock assuming that the \$20,000 credit will not be offered if we think there would be support to do the project without the \$20,000 credit. Let's discuss.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Pam Mola of 2 Church St. noticed the application by the DEEP published in The Day regarding Whalen's Wharf and asked if that is to have it shovel ready for if/when the work is done. She also wanted to be on record, again, that once the grate was removed, there was no more flooding.

Resident Gene Pfeifer of 5 Diving St. concerning the EV charges at the Docks, I am on the Waterfront Commission and we and the fishermen have been in favor of this. The BOF has shot down the EV chargers three times already. It seems now that the Town has \$900,000 grant from the Federal govt to do work on for the north dock that this is the time to do this.

Resident Al Razzano of Main St. mentioned that Joan Rowley has been to P&Z meetings and should be considered as a member.

Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 Church St. commented that the cannons are awesome and gave kudos. He feels that all of the letters received on issues should be published. He supports the charging stations and that they should be at the Town Dock. Part of his letter included a letter to from Danielle Chesebrough and a statement from the Dept of Transportation that they don't have a problem with putting things in flood zones. Warden Schefers has sent all emails to Burgesses. He feels that there should be interactive discussions with audience during the discussions of issues. Resident Jesse Diggs continued that we are a municipality and therefore must be ADA compliant. Because of the locations of charging inlets on autos they would have to be in locations that will block sidewalks.

Resident Chuck Hartman is not against the EV charging stations and read the CT Dept of Energy guidelines reads that the first one must be ADA compliant and that the EV charges must be in places that have a minimum of pedestrian activity. That would rule out Wad square. He also asked what the value is of having EV stations as far as payback period and breakeven point for the Borough. I am more than happy to help with the financial case for them. There are senior citizens in the Borough on fixed incomes and we would be asking them to increase their taxes for people who can afford electric vehicles?

Resident Ellen Wightman of 44 Main Street asked about the history of EV chargers. It goes back to the survey and an earlier Board.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Comfort Station Update and Budget Expenditure Requests**

In Building Commissioner report.

#### **Recreational Vehicles and Motor Homes parking and Commercial Vehicle parking (Ordinance clarification)**

The regulations from other towns were just sent to the Burgesses right before this meeting. Tabled until next meeting.

**EV Charging Station Update and FY 2024/25 Budget Request**  
**All emails from resident will be included in the minutes.**

Burgess Bowdler gave the history of the EV Charging Stations.  
Tabled until further discussions with the Town.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**PHGS application Feast of the Holy Ghost**

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, the application from Howard Taylor/Tom Arruda of the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society to use Main St., Broad St., Water St., High St., Northwest and Grand St. for the Feast of the Holy Ghost Processions on Saturday, September 1 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm and Sunday, September 2 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, pending Insurance proof, was approved.

**COMO application for Village Fair**

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Warden Schefers, the application by the Stonington Community Center to use Wadawanuck Square and High Street for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stonington Village Fair on Saturday, August 3, 2024 from 10 am – 4 pm (set up on 8/2/2024, break down on 8/4/2024). Portion of High Street in front of Stonington Free Library will be closed 7 am – 6 pm on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, was approved.

**Sherman Crites SHMC appointment**

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the appointment of Sherman Crites to the Stonington Harbor Management Commission, was approved.

**Approval of SCCOG Emergency Management agreement**

Because the Warden is an incumbent CEO, so he only had to sign an agreement with SCCOG.

**Planning and Zoning Alternate Candidates.**

Discussion only. All inquiries and suggestions will be considered before the vote in August.

**OTHER BUSINESS and Discussion**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, adjournment of the meeting at 8:24 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa M. Coleman  
July 23, 2024