

Stonington Borough Comfort Station Taskforce

Special Meeting

Wednesday November 15th, 2023

7 pm

Borough Hall – 26 Church St Stonington

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Review minutes of November 9th meeting
3. Review DRAFT Report to Warden and Burgesses
4. Discuss correspondence received. (see attached)
5. Public Comment
6. Adjourn

**FW: What other topic could there be?**

message

Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 9:08 AM

**Michael Schefers** <borowarden@att.net>  
To: Amanda Knapp Barnes <burgess.amandabarnes@gmail.com>, Kevin Bowdler <burgess.bowdler@gmail.com>  
Cc: Amy Nicholas <burgess.amynicholas@gmail.com>, Kevin Rogers <burgess.kevinrogers@gmail.com>

FYI!

M

Michael E. Schefers, Warden  
Borough of Stonington  
Connecticut

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Michael Schefers <meschefers@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Michael E. Schefers <borowarden@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 13, 2023 at 08:22:37 AM EST  
**Subject:** Fw: What other topic could there be?

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Post, Jonathan <post@humnet.ucla.edu>  
**To:** Michael Schefers <meschefers@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 12, 2023, 03:21:13 PM EST  
**Subject:** RE: What other topic could there be?

Dear Michael:

Just what you wanted to hear on a Sunday afternoon—toilet talk.

I've been emailed by neighbors to say that there has been discussion about placing several toilets near the playground in order to meet the desires by some that the borough create more public restrooms beyond the two portable ones, plus the one in the library. In the initial phase of discussions, I thought that the playground was a possible location that bore looking into. There is a portable potty there already, and it seems rather inconspicuous. But now that I've seen a mock-up of a possible trailer of two and thought further on the topic, I have had a distinct change of heart for a number of reasons.

First, the two on a trailer simply looks trashy. The one Julia drew up by the library, although more costly, was preferable, and for the most part was hardly noticeable, even by neighbors, tucked in as it was behind the library. This one, by the playground, however, is especially visible to all the houses surrounding the meadow and the playground. It's a large thumb in the eye. Or two large thumbs mounted on a trailer. In our case, our front windows look directly out onto the proposed space. Not only that but the view, as it is, is one we especially enjoy because it looks out onto the water where, beyond it, all the boats are sometimes at rest, other times sailing out to sea.

Furthermore, in my own, rather personal case, it was this view above all others that I saw for hours at a time when I lay on our couch for much of the day for two months recovering from an illness. It wasn't a matter of aesthetics only, in other words, but of comfort in a time of a need. I've also come to think that there may be a further problem. I'm not especially keen about lots of toilets near playgrounds with lots of kids. Of course, they are useful, but they can attract the wrong kind of person in a place where there are many vulnerable people. Parents—and grandparents—ought to feel that the children can play in this wonderful playground without concern. I understand that the business community would like to have public bathrooms, but is this really a good space? I can't imagine too many prospective shoppers finding their way to these out of the way outhouses.

I don't mean to sound breezy here, as if I had the answer, or singularly selfish. I know many people have spent long hours on this topic. If possible I'd like these concerns to be entered into the discussion.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Post  
21 Northwest St.

Jonathan F.S. Post  
Distinguished Research Professor

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**Comfort Station**

message

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**Amy Nicholas** <burgess.amynicholas@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 11:26 AM

to: Amanda Knapp Barnes &lt;burgess.amandabarnes@gmail.com&gt;, Kevin Bowdler &lt;burgess.bowdler@gmail.com&gt;

cc: Jeffrey Callahan &lt;borowarden@att.net&gt;, Kevin Rogers &lt;burgess.kevinrogers@gmail.com&gt;

Good Morning,

Thank you for chairing the new Comfort Station Committee. Given that two prior Comfort Station Committees determined that Wadawanuck Square was the best location for the Comfort Station, I strongly believe the committee needs to include a comparison to/analysis of the Wadawanuck location. Thank you, Amy