Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
October 19, 2026
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Warden Michael Schefers called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at 7:01 p.m. The meeting was held at Borough Hall. Present, in addition to Warden Schefers were Burgesses Kevin Bowdler, Kevin Rogers, Amy Nicholas, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Amanda Barnes was absent. Approximately 11 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the monthly meeting of Sept 21, 2026, as amended to read "asked why the surface of the viaduct is being replaced. His concern is that the DOT will then look for additional 'problems' with the lower part of the bridge." under Jesse Diggs' Public Comment and "State DOT will propose…" under Unfinished Business Viaduct Update, were unanimously approved.

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Warden Schefers to add "Filming of "The Resurrection Club" and "Jesse Diggs nomination to Planning and Zoning" to New Business, was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:
SVIA Trick or Treat Street Closure
SVIA Holiday Stroll
Lobster Tree Lighting OCCC
Jesse Diggs email regarding his nomination to Planning and Zoning

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period September 17, 2026, through October 15, 2026, totaled $12,333.92. Large bills of note were for $5,785.09 for major repair to Fire Truck and $1,400 which is half of the cost of footbridge clear panels to Arrow Fence. I&E for July 2026 through June 30, 2027, shows total income to date of $1,555,793; and net income to date of $947,066.

The audit is going quite well.

Current YTD Balance Sheet

BOROUGH OF STONINGTON
As of October 15, 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	$74,769.36
1200 Dime Investment AC	$1,630,974.71
Total for Bank Accounts	$1,705,744.07

WARDEN'S REPORT

Attended SECOG and SEAT Meetings
Attended Monthly Town/DOT Viaduct Meeting
Met with Chiefs and Public Safety Commissioner on SBFD Planning
Attended Selectmen's Flock Camera Meeting 9/23
Revised P&Z Regulations are now on the Borough Website
Met with Borough Attorney on Fallen Tree on Borough Property
Retained LaGrua Center for Flock Public Hearing 11/4 at 7 pm
Contracted to have new fencing installed on Pedestrian Footbridge

Street and Sidewalks Commissioner Report (Schefers)

Initiated Leaf Collection
Installed No Parking signs for Point
Conducted ongoing Park mowing and maintenance
Cleared East Grand of storm debris
Completed property cleanup of tree debris
Completed FY26/27 Paving (Northwest & Ash)

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Martin)

There were twenty-four alarms in September 2026 (13 in the Borough). They were as follows:

Date	Primary Incident Type	Location Address
9/1/26	Malfunctioning alarm	227 WAMPHASSUC Road
9/1/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	12 SCHOOL Street
9/4/26	Accidental alarm	40 PALMER Street
9/5/26	Other traumatic injury	100 MAIN Street

9/5/26	Smoke from non-hostile source (Smoke scare)	30 COVESIDE LA
9/6/26	Citizen assist / service call	32 WATER Street
9/7/26	CO alarm	123 WATER Street
9/7/26	Accidental alarm	5 WATER Street
9/9/26	Malfunctioning alarm	86 SALT ACRES Road
9/9/26	Malfunctioning alarm	330 N MAIN Street
9/9/26	CO alarm	330 N MAIN Street
9/10/26	Accidental alarm	14 CLIFF Street
9/11/26	Citizen assist / service call	18 ELM Street
9/12/26	Standby (public service)	100 MAIN Street
9/14/26	Fire / smoke alarm	7 HILLCREST Drive
9/15/26	Accidental alarm	228 WAMPHASSUC Road
9/16/26	Damaged hydrant	1 WATER Street
9/22/26	Accidental alarm	1 BROAD Street
9/26/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	13 TEMPLE Street
9/26/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	33 COLLINS Road
9/27/26	Electrical power line down / arcing / malfunction	223 WAMPHASSUC Road
9/27/26	Citizen assist / service call	15 HOPKINS Street
9/27/26	Damage assessment	26 CHURCH Street
9/28/26	Odor investigation	43 SHAWONDASSEE Drive

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

None

Public Buildings (Rogers)

As Buildings Commissioner for Stonington Borough, I submit the following report regarding the two buildings under my oversight: Borough Hall and the Firehouse.

Borough Hall:

During the severe nor'easter in September, a neighboring property's tree fell onto the building. We were very lucky that it is a brick structure because the resulting damage was minimal. An estimate for the necessary repairs is expected any day now, and we are hopeful that the neighbor's insurance company will cover the cost of the project. Additionally, a section of our fence on the east side of the building was damaged during the storm and will need to be replaced.

Warden Schefers commented that the fence on the east side of the building was originally paid for by Cormac O'Malley and the Borough.

Firehouse:

There has been a lot of work happening inside the facility recently, thanks to Curran Construction. Chris has successfully completed most of the repairs on our list. We still need an exhaust vent installed in the shower room to properly remove moisture from the space. The rest of the items on the repair list will continue to be checked off in short time

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)
None

PUBLIC COMMENT #1
Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 School St. mentioned that the September meeting minutes regarding the Viaduct Update were incorrect in that Amtrak is not getting involved in the meetings about the viaduct. That was incorrect in the minutes and will be corrected. My second comment is that I will not be here for the Flock Camera Public Hearing but one of the things we have observed is most videos of crimes that are recorded come from surveillance or body cams, not Flocks. I think cameras should be addressed in the discussion about Flock and how effective are they are in crimes as opposed to surveillance cameras. I have distributed my letter of my qualifications for P&Z.

Resident Craig Rowley of 19 Summit Street commented about safety at corner of Elm and Summit St. There was a sign there before CAUTION CHILDREN PLAYING. I think it would be wise to put a sign up again. There is a new tenant at 1 Summit, and they are parking in the yellow line. Warden Schefers will issue a warning.

Resident Al Razzano of 25 Main St. commented that there should be a contingency plan for when the website goes down. I feel Jen should have contacts.

UNFINISHED BUSINES

Viaduct Update
Warden said that we were told they were evaluating new material for the foundation of the bridge. We were going to have a meeting this week but since there is no answer from the engineer and the meeting has been delayed. The next meeting will be held once the report is made available; will include Bill Middleton, Warden, and the town engineer.

Stormwater Management Update
A meeting has been requested with the team.
Evergreen Landscaping will remove a slab of cement that has no purpose on East Grand. We can then see what is under there. We will also put in additional scuppers.

Status of Borough Traffic Committee Report Recommendations

There are just a few lines that Burgess Nicholas and Warden Schefers need to go over. Warden has talked to some contractors about the proposed crosswalk at the end of the viaduct. Burgess Rogers mentioned that he had been told during a previous traffic study that it was not a good idea because of the big trucks having a problem slowing down. Warden will ask the town engineer for an opinion.

Flock Camera Discussion

We will have a hearing at LaGrua Center on November 4th at 7 pm. Kevin and Amy have

identified a few questions we have to ask the police department to respond to, including the length of data retention and how information concerning the 1st and 4th Amendments. The police chief has been invited to attend. He declined but the Warden will again request his attendance. There will be a presentation then time for public comments. Residents will sign up to make comments and limit their time to two minutes.

Truck Parking on Water Street

Warden Schefers and Burgess Nicholas sat down with Andrew, Chris Erriccheti, Bill Griffen. They are looking at a couple options, one of which is the Condo Association may allow the trucks to pull in, and the other entrance will be used for entrance and exit. Jesse Diggs said that he has never seen a catastrophic event there. Warden Schefers said that the Commons residents originally brought this up as a safety issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT (#2) Before Votes

David Stevenson commented that the crosswalk at the end of the viaduct is a bad idea because it is at the bottom of a hill and especially unsafe during the winter. Jesse Diggs said the velocity of large trucks will be a problem.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of P&Z Members

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve Charles Hartman and Jeff Johnson as full members of Planning and Zoning, was unanimously approved.

SVIA Requests

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to concur with the Town of Stonington's approval of the application made by SVIA to use Water Street for the Children's Halloween Trick or Treat on October 31, 2026, and to close Water Street from High St. to Church St. from 5:30 to 7:30 pm for pedestrian safety during Trick or Treat with local merchants, was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to concur with the Town of Stonington's approval of the application made by SVIA to use Wad Square for tree lighting and caroling at SFL and Water Street from High Street to Cannon Square closed for strolling and horse carriage rides on December 4, 2026, from 5:30 to 8 pm for the Annual Stroll, was unanimously approved.

Brandon Watson of SVIA said this is an exact match for what was done last year. There will be someone cleaning behind the horse carriage. Burgess Bowdler asked that the trash containers be emptied. The large lit stars will be removed by Epiphany. There will be lights at Cannon Square. Wreaths will go up on the viaduct after Thanksgiving.

OCCC Lobster Tree

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to concur with the Town of Stonington's approval of the application made by Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce to use 1 High Street across from Town Dock for the Stonington Lobster Trap Tree, opening on

11/21, from 11/9/2026 through 1/3/2027 from 4:30 to 9:30 pm nightly, subject to a sign to direct vehicles to park placed at the corner of Broad St. and a police officer on the night of lighting of the Lobster Trap Tree, was unanimously approved.

Filming of "The Resurrection Club"
On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to concur with the Town of Stonington's approval of the application of filming of a scene for show titled "The Resurrection Club" made by The Resurrection Club, LLC on November 24 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm at Stonington Town Dock, was unanimously approved.

Jesse Diggs nomination to Planning and Zoning
On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve adding Jesse Diggs as a full member of Planning and Zoning, was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT
On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 7:55 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
October 21, 2026