

**Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses Regular Monthly Meeting  
March 18, 2024  
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, and Amanda Barnes, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Amy Nicholas was absent. Approximately 18 members of the public were present.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, approval of the minutes of the monthly meeting of February 20, 2024, were approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

RECEIVED:

Application, Calvary Church, Easter Service at Point  
Stonington Free Library letter, continue support contribution  
SVIA email 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade budget 2K.

**REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER**

None

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

Bills for the period February 17, 2024 through March 15, 2024 totaled \$34,414.32. I&E through March 15, 2024 shows total revenue to date of \$1,470,266.37; and net income to date of \$423,595.92. Balance of ARPA funds is \$30,538.

**WARDEN'S REPORT**

Attended February SCOOG Meeting  
Met with CLA Engineer on Footbridge Project  
Attended Murphy/Blumenthal webinar on discretionary spending  
Budget meetings with Ann, Sue & Chief  
Phone conversations concerning flood on Wall Street  
Met with Attorney Nick Kepple on various matters

**BOROUGH CLOCK –**

None

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

**Streets & Sidewalks** (Schefers)

Conducted monthly brush pickup.

Continued Park maintenance.

Reviewed Borough owned sidewalk issues with Sue.

Solicited Superior Sewer input on existing storm water outflow pipe cleaning, no reply from them yet.

No reply yet from Superior Sewer on Cross and Northwest outflow maintenance.

Burgess Barnes and I did a review of sidewalks this past week how tree roots effect various sidewalks owned by the Borough.

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

SBFD responded to 6 Alarms in February, 2024, they were as follows:

- 2-5-24 11:37am MV into a pole IFO 178 Water St. (no injuries)
- 2-7-24 11:20am Odor of gas Stonington Town Hall (sewer, propane ?)
- 2-10-24 6pm CO detector activation 28 Harbor View Terrace (MV in garage)
- 2-11-24 11:34am Wires down IFO 66 Noyes Ave. Lords Pt. (utility wires)
- 2-13-24 12:26pm Wires down Main @ Church St. (utility wires)
- 2-27-2024 1:13pm Fire Alarm Activation 17 Hancox St. (workers)

**February Police Incident Report**

Still no report from the Stonington police.

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

I did reply to letter from Water Street homeowner about removal of three trees. I do not think they should be removed.

**Public Buildings (Rogers)**

Met with Julia and the engineer. We needed to bring the Chief into this discussion because a "Fire Door" sticker was on one of the doors, which meant we had to do some investigating on whether the door had to stay or could go. The Chief had to do some research himself on the matter. Julia is following up with her own investigations concerning the door.

A week later, Julia, the Warden and I met to bring him to speed on the project. We discussed the pipe from the highway department garage and how it needs to be a separate project, but done at the same time.

Also discussed was the topic of whether or not the two bathrooms would be in one job or if they would be split up to help with traffic of the building. We agreed that it would be up to the builder whose bid won.

Regarding the Cannons, the linseed oil has been applied. Aiming for a July 4<sup>th</sup> unveiling.

Floor of Bay One of the Fire Station will be repaired in the next month. The bell at the Fire Station will be done in the fall.

**Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Pam Mola of 2 Church Street pointed out that there is no mention of swimming at Wayland's Wharf in the report regarding the outflow. She feels that Ledge Light Health District and Town should be brought in.

Resident Don Maranell of Bayview Ave. Speaking as P&Z chair, the fees should be increased or added. He suggests a re-write of the zoning regulations.

Resident Michelle Petrucelli of 1 Church St expressed her fear of debris, oil, etc. going into the proposed outlet near Wayland's Wharf.

Brett Duncan of 1 Church St. question the way the system works regarding high pressure cleaning of drains. Warden responded that this is being looked at with Superior Sewer.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Comfort Station Update**

Along with the bathrooms at Borough Hall, there are the porta-potties at Town Dock playground. A grant has been submitted to the Garden Club and they came back with not doing the hard structure work, but could contribute to the plantings. The SVIA already maintains the plantings at the playground. I will continue to have the conversations with both groups and Chamber of Commerce.

#### **Viaduct update**

We met with Amtrak today. Amtrak says that through legislation they are required to close all of the railroad crossings in the Northeast from DC to Boston. We can lobby our senators, Congressmen, etc. DOT and Amtrak will be putting together a communication plan for immediate response to any disaster/emergency. I spoke with the engineering firm that is doing the design and he wants to make the pedestrian bridge handicap accessible during the time the bridge is being replaced. The pedestrian bridge will be part of the bridge work. They are still talking about a complete rebuild of the viaduct bridge. At the end of July, we will see the conceptual drawing, at which time there will be a public meeting. The construction will begin in 2027. There are 11 crossings in New England that must be closed and ten of them are in New London County. Warden will ask to read the legislation regarding the crossings having to be closed.

#### **Draft Vendor Ordinance**

Planning and Zoning says we can proceed with our Draft Vendor Ordinance, limit it to the Point only.

#### **Water Street Flooding Project Update**

Still waiting for permitting from DEEP and Corps of Engineers.

#### **Recreational Vehicles and Motor Homes (Ordinance Clarification)**

Attorney Nick Kepple is reviewing other CT towns ordinances and P&Z regulations.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Consider requests to use Borough property**

##### **Consider request made by Calvary Church to hold Easter Service at Stonington Point**

A motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the request by Calvary Church to hold Easter Sunday sunrise prayer service, ecumenical on Sunday, March 31, 2024 from 6:15-7:00 am at Stonington Point, was unanimously approved.

#### **Draft Budget Preparation**

We will have a draft budget presented at the April meeting. If the Board approves it, it will be posted to the public and voted on at the Borough annual meeting.

#### **Consider request made by SVIA for \$2,000 funding by Borough for 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade**

A motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to transfer from Stonington Historical Society to SVIA for \$2,000 funding by the Borough of Stonington for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, was unanimously approved.

**Footbridge project update**

See viaduct update in Unfinished Business

**Consider April Annual Meeting Date**

A motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the date of the Borough Annual Meeting to be April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, was unanimously approved. The meeting will be held at Borough Hall.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Resident Mary Maranell asked that donations be made out to Borough of Stonington. The memorial for Gail Woodrow will be at the corner of High and Main Sts and that any overage be donated to the Library Fund that Mary Hughes started.

Joey Hastedt confirmed that the pricing for paving Church Street from Main to the end is still \$121,000 including the curb cuts, remove the sidewalk on the Borough Hall side of the street until Orchard Street, put granite curbing around the telephone poles and leave sidewalk past Orchard St. Burgess Bowdler suggested discussion with the neighbors.

Elsie Bessette spoke about the upcoming Cultural District Commission. A walk will happen tomorrow for Mystic Bridge and Stonington Village.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 7:53 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa M. Coleman  
March 24, 2024