

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting – July 19, 2021**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeffrey Callahan 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 and also by way of Zoom conferencing video. Present were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, and Shaun Mastroianni. Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman took minutes via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 21, 2021, were unanimously approved with the following modification: the paragraph on page 4 regarding approval of Noah’s Restaurant proposal for outdoor dining now reads “The plan must address number and arrangement of tables, barriers, delivery trucks, timing, impacts on Church Street neighbors, etc.”

NEW BUSINESS (item b. moved up)

By unanimous consent, a resolution honoring Susan Cordeiro’s 40 years as a Borough employee, was unanimously approved and presented to Ms. Cordeiro. She was the first woman in the State of Connecticut to become a highway department leader.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Continues to get mailing lists in order.

CORRESPONDENCE

BOROUGH PROPERTY USE REQUESTS:

Noah’s Restaurant – Revised outdoor dining plan.

Jeff Anderson – Battle of Stonington 5K race, Aug. 24 .

Emily Logan – (1) Ice Cream truck at PHGS, July 24; (2) sell ice cream at Point daily.

Fred Souza – Festival of the Holy Ghost procession, Sept. 5.

MEETINGS: NONE

OTHER:

Stonington Historical Society – Letter of appreciation for July Fourth support.

Peyton Horne – Concerns about linden tree at 75 Main Street.

SCCOG – Request to all SCCOG municipalities for allocation of 1% of ARPA county funds (Borough=\$1,700 over 4 years) to enable SCCOG to hire a regional recovery planner.

DEMHS Region 4 – Letter recommending allocation of ARPA funds to address societal issues.

Richard Easton – Email opposing closing a portion of Church Street.

Eric and Marybeth Bartholet – Letter and petition opposing closing a portion of Church Street.

OUTGOING: NONE

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period June 17, 2021, through July 16, 2021, totaled \$103,339. Net income as of July 16, 2021, is \$217,772.13. FY-21 ended with a surplus of about \$200,000.

WARDEN'S MONTHLY REPORT

Participated in Zoom with SCCOG and local health districts.

Monitoring development of new Borough website.

Worked on Waldron-Williams Funds merger. Borough Atty is in the process of filing for incorporation in CT.

Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have dropped to low single digits, while total deaths have risen very slightly to 451. Stonington Town deaths are 32 and total cases equal 1131. (Final Stonington report from LLHD).

Continued working with FEMA to resolve concerns about one resident's flood map revision request.

Survey of Wad Square completed.

Participated in second meeting about establishing a cultural district in the Borough.

First tranche of ARPA funds (\$131k) received and deposited in new special fund per auditor recommendation.

Harald Hefel finished repointing south-facing seawall at Wayland's Wharf.

BOROUGH CLOCK – None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

STREET & SIDEWALKS (CALLAHAN)

Conducted monthly brush pickup.

Installed life ring at Wayland's Wharf dock.

Installed granite crosswalk stones in Union Street.

Mowed Borough parks.

Issued 2 dumpster permits .

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NICHOLAS/HOADLEY)

During the month of June 2021 there were 49 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 9 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 6 Medical Assists, 5 Animal Control/Issues, 5 Fire Related Calls, 3 Business/Building Checks, 3 Assist Citizen, 3 Burglar Alarms one of which was a false alarm, 2 Accidents No Injury, 2 911 Misdeal/Hang ups, and 2 Larceny calls. There was one incident each of Traffic Enforcement, Nuisance, Animal Bite, Marine Incident, Motor Vehicle Abandonment, Alarm Panic, Minor Traffic Service, Welfare Check and Motor Vehicle Stop.

The Motor Vehicle Stop resulted in an arrest.

Sbfd responded to 13 Alarms in June 2021, they were as follows:

- 6-2-21 4:23pm Water emergency 19 Diving St. (broken main coming into house)
- 6-5-21 11:45pm Lift assist with SAC 24 Main St. (person fallen & injured)
- 6-8-21 8:06am Alarm sounding Front & High St. (truck @ town dock)
- 6-9-21 7:26am Fire Alarm activation 48 Collins Rd. (Power surge in area)
- 6-12-21 3:15pm Kayaker in distress off Stonington Point (kayakers found, no issues)
- 6-17-21 7:55am Fire Alarm activation 13 East Grand St. (burned bacon)
- 6-19-21 8:25am Gas leak 28 Cutler St., Stonington Como (landscaper cut through propane line into Como, shut off tanks & called Spicer Gas to come repair)
- 6-21-21 7:12pm Fire Alarm activation 17 Hancox St. Sea Village Apts. (oven fire unit #9, potatoes)
- 6-26-21 7:58am Fire Alarm activation 5 Hampton St. Lord's Pt. (burned breakfast)
- 6-26-21 10:51am MVA IFO 325 North Main St. (moving truck into hedges)
- 6-27-21 7:33pm Lift assist with SAC 34 Shawondassee Dr. (person fallen & couldn't get up)
- 6-30-21 12:34pm Structure Fire 123 Elm St. (dryer fire)
- 6-30-21 4:55pm CO detector activation 166 Briar Patch Rd. (no readings or issues found)

PARKS, TREES & RIGHT OF WAY (BARNES)

None

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (MASTROIANNI)

Footbridge fence being replaced.

UTILITIES & SANITATION (ROGERS)

All the wires on the pole on the corner of Cannon and Water were removed. The pole is scheduled to be removed. Requested if anyone lives near one of the redundant poles, contact Burgess Rogers. Have gone through sections of the Borough and have given out 6 notices regarding putting out yellow bags the night before pickup. Burgess Barnes said that someone in Borough East asked in a survey if more trash bins can be put near the Velvet Mill.

PUBLIC COMMENT-- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status of COVID-19 in region and State

See the Warden's report above.

Resident survey results

We had a good return. The Board has been given the tallies of the surveys. A decision will be made on how to include the public in the discussions. Warden Callahan asked that Burgesses Rogers and Mastroianni organize the responses into common sections and come to the next meeting with bullet points for discussion.

Update on outdoor grill/fire pit ordinance - None

Lower Water Street/Borough traffic and parking

The warden and Burgess Rogers met with traffic consultant John Burke who has worked with other similar towns, including Stonington/Groton regarding Mystic traffic issues. He will provide a proposal to perform an analysis and recommendations for the Borough. Burgess Rogers to have Boundaries, LLC invoice the Phase One parking study.

Consider appointing a Public Restroom Building Committee

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes to approve the formation of a Public Restroom Building Committee to include Warden Callahan, Burgess Nicholas, Burgess Rogers, Jean Fiore, Janet McClendon, Jim Quinn, and Micayla Hall, was unanimously approved. A representative from the SBMA will be appointed by the warden.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider requests to use Borough property:

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve Jeff Anderson of Kelley’s Pace to use Main Street, Water Street, Omega Street, Hancox Street and the Library Grounds, for the annual Battle of Stonington 5K road race on Tuesday August 24, 2021, from 5:45-7 pm, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve Emily Logan’s application for Mama Emily’s Sweet Treats ice cream truck to park on Main Street outside the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society on July 24 from 5:00-9:00 pm passed unanimously.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve Emily Logan’s ice cream vending at The Point three weekdays per week, staying at the Point approximately thirty minutes each day, with no other stops in the Borough along the way, was approved by majority vote. Burgess Mastroianni opposed.

Burgess Rogers moved to approve Noah’s Restaurant’s request to use the Church Street sidewalk for three four-person tables and the Water Street sidewalk for two two-person tables, (fourteen adult seats total) from August 1, 2021 through January 1, 2022. Burgess Nicholas seconded. During discussion Warden Callahan stated that the table arrangement must conform to the drawing submitted with the application, including creation of an ADA-compliant walkway adjacent to the curb on Church Street. There were no objections from the public. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society's use of various streets for the annual Feast of the Holy Ghost procession on Sunday, September 5 from 10:15 am–12:00 pm, was unanimously approved.

Consider appropriating ARPA funds to Borough essential workers, SCCOG and Arts

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to recognize the Borough's essential workers by providing bonuses of \$500 each to full time employees (Chief Hoadley, Susan Cordeiro, Phoenix Grimes); bonuses of \$250 each to part time employees and those who worked in Borough Hall for a portion of the lockdown period (Tom Zanarini, Barbara Perry, Tiffany Cook, Ann Fiore); and bonuses of \$250 each to volunteer firefighters and EMTs (total of 40 people) for a total cost of \$12,500, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to allocate \$860 (1% of Borough ARPA county funds) this year to SCCOG, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to allocate \$5,000 from ARPA funds to the Cultural Coalition of SE CT, for support of arts organizations in the Borough, passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION -- None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 8:37 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
July 28, 2021