

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses

Minutes of Monthly Meeting ~May 15, 2017

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order in Borough Hall at 7:30 PM. Present were Burgesses Karen von Ruffer Hills, Robert Scala, Michael Adair, Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, and Shaun Mastroianni.

Announcements

Warden Callahan welcomed new Burgess Mastroianni and thanked Burgess Park for all his contributions over the years. Warden Callahan introduced a new protocol for the meeting moving forward. To ensure orderly and civil discourse at the Borough meetings, public input will only be allowed during the public comment portion of the meeting and at other times when invited by the presiding officer.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on April 17, 2017, were unanimously approved.

Administrative Assistants' Report:

Received April collections: \$335.44

Prepared materials for Annual Meeting

Assisted with absentee ballots for Borough election

Correspondence:

Letter from Town of Stonington to Chair of Borough P&Z withdrawing zoning permit application #16-13 for 1 High Street

Email from Moira O'Malley: notice of resignation from Zoning Board of Appeals on April 25th

Email from Rodney Johnstone: request to be reappointed to Stonington Harbor Management

Email from Martha Mitchell, 25 Main Street, appealing denial of her request of August 2016 to remove the small maple near the corner of Main and Wall Streets

Request: Use of property/streets: Stonington VIA for June 4th Merrill House Ceremony and Stonington Historical Society for July 4th Parade

Report of Clerk/Treasurer

none

Review of Bills/YTD Financial Report

Reports were reviewed with no further comments

Commissioner Reports

Wardens Report: Dog Park:

- STEP area locked closed for maintenance per order of First Selectman.
- Attended public presentation of draft Coastal Resiliency Plan
- Contacted contractors regarding this summer's street projects

Fire Commissioner Report

- SBFD April calls: 15 alarms
- Chief Hoadley sworn in as Borough Fire Marshal
- 911 tested at five locations on Main Street, all successful

Borough Clock

Reset clock after power outage due to thunderstorms

Streets Commissioner

- working with contractors to finalize projects

Parks Commissioner

- Bartlett worked at 25 Main Street. They pruned and cabled the two large maples

Public Buildings Commissioner

- Received 2 bids to replace firehouse doors, 1 more pending. The next step will be selecting a bid

Sidewalks Commissioner

- 33 Main Street has reset the blue stone
- Bayview repairs still not done

Police & Public Affairs Commissioner

- During the month of April 2017 there were 46 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 7 burglar alarms (6 of which were false), 7 fire related calls, 6 parking complaints, 5 medical assists, 3 motor vehicles infractions/stops, 3 business checks, 2 harassment, 2 suspicious activities, and 2 animal control incidents. There was one incident each of water emergency, assist other agency, alarm not registered, keys in vehicle, suspicious motor vehicle, disturbance, juvenile, order to repossess and one pistol permit

Utilities & Sanitation Commissioner

- discussed the need for signage at the beach and foot bridge

Public Comment

- Resident Karen Rutherford from 6 Front Street discussed flooding in front of her property when it rains. Warden Callahan will meet with her to discuss the problem.
- Resident Rich Easton inquired about the fire report and if any were at the Velvet Mill. Warden Callahan disclosed that 2 of the alarm calls were there at the beginning of the month; the chief believes the issue has been resolved. Mr. Easton questioned the correspondence from First Selectman that referred to correspondence from Warden Callahan. Warden Callahan will provide Mr. Easton a copy of his correspondence to the First Selectman.
- Resident Joe Williams from Church Street inquired about the status of the solar panels at the Borough water pollution control facility. Warden Callahan explained that this would not come to this board but the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Resident Mitchell inquired about the consideration of a new dog park in the Borough. Warden Callahan explained that finding an appropriate area in the Borough will be difficult but the topic is open to ideas from the public.

Old Business

a. Dog Park update- Warden Callahan noted that at the April meeting he had offered an amendment to SBO-09 (Dogs), and after some people objected to the lack of notice, the amendment was tabled. He then stated that in an effort to achieve a global settlement of the ongoing legal battles over the so-called

dog park, he would be willing to again propose amending SBO-09 to add the entire Town Dock area, including the STEP parcel, in the list of areas covered by SBO-09. He advised the Board that depending on the status of settlement discussions in June, he intends to bring to the June Board meeting either a proposed amendment to SBO-09 that would include the Town Dock area; or a resolution declaring the Board's intention of passing such an amendment once a final agreement has been reached by the parties.

b. Consider removal of ginkgo tree at 168 Water Street- Warden Callahan pointed out that he had sent a request to the Tree Commissioner on March 22, request that the ginkgo be removed because the fruit from that tree makes walking on the sidewalk hazardous. The tree commissioner denied his request on March 23. On March 24, Warden Callahan notified Ms. Barnes that he intended to appeal her decision to the Board of Warden & Burgesses. Having reviewed the history, Warden Callahan moved that the female ginkgo at 168 Water Street be removed. Burgess Adair seconded the motion. Discussion followed about risk assessment, tree policy consistency, and how many other female ginkgo trees are present in the Borough. (Two) The motion was passed with a vote of 5 for, 1 opposed (Barnes), 1 abstained (Nicholas).

New Business

a. Requests to use Borough property: On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Scala, the request by SVIA to close Union Street on the afternoon of June 4 for the Merrill House National Landmark ceremony was unanimously approved. The same motion included approval of the Stonington Historical Society's annual July 4th parade route. A stipulation was added that the SVIA must notify residents of Union St about the closure of the street in June.

b. A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to reappoint Ed Smith and Rodney Johnstone for three-year terms ending June 2020 on the Stonington Harbor Management Commission, was unanimously approved.

c. Warden Callahan moved, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to make the following commissioner appointments: Streets- Callahan; Sidewalks - Scala; Trees & Parks - Barnes; Fire - Adair; Utilities & Sanitation - von Ruffer Hills; Buildings - Mastroianni; Police & Public Affairs - Nicholas. Resident Richard Easton voiced concerns about the warden receiving the street commissioner stipend in addition to his salary as warden. Burgess Nicholas pointed out that most wardens in the last 20 years or more had also served as street commissioner. The motion was approved, 6 in favor and 1 abstention (Callahan).

d. A motion to appoint Bergin O' Malley as Borough Clerk/treasure by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Scala, was unanimously passed after discussion revealed that the past Clerk/Treasure did not qualify for reappointment, because she did not live in the Borough as required by the Charter. Warden Callahan thanked previous clerk-treasurer Lisa Coleman for her excellent service to the Board and Borough.

e. A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess von Ruffer Hills, to cancel the regular June meeting scheduled for June 19th and to schedule a special meeting on June 12 at 7:30 pm, was unanimously approved.

Other Business

Warden Callahan moved waiving the bid requirement and awarding the planned street projects as follows: Cross and Front Streets repaving to Hastedt Bros (\$38,600); Summit and Bayview crosswalks to Sullivan Paving (\$11,350). Seconded by Burgess Adair. Passed unanimously.

Adjournment

On a motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Scala, adjournment of the meeting at 8:28 PM, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Mastroianni
Acting Secretary

May 19, 2017