

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
September 15, 2025
MEETING 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 Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, Kevin Rogers, Kevin Bowdler, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Approximately 14 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes of the monthly meeting of August 18, 2025, including misspellings of resident's names under Public Comment and correction under Fire and Emergency were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

Event application Historic Stonington — House Tour

PHGS Event Application — Pick-up Parking Spaces

Ken Brazia — Wayland's Wharf Phase 2 Proposal and Costs

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

There was an overcharge by the Town of Stonington to us from the May 2025 election.

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period August 15, 2025, through September 12, 2025, totaled \$69,258.73. Large bills of note were Aquarion Water for 2 payments on hydrants, Curran Construction for completion of air conditioning in Boro Firehouse and Curran Construction for lighting in hallway of Firehouse. I&E for July 2025 through June 30, 2026, shows total income to date of \$1,414,799.17; and net income to date of \$826,248.70.

We do have enough money in the Infrastructure Fund for the Phase 2 of Wayland's Wharf.

Burgess Nicholas asked if the cost for the police at the Point was included in the bills and Warden Schefers said yes, it is coming out of Public Safety, paid to Town of Stonington.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Met with First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough on shared local items of interest.
No August SECOG Meeting.

Attended August SEAT Board Meeting.
Met with Como and SVIA on Point Garbage Disposal.
Met with contractor to discuss repairs to Storm Drainage at East Grand Street.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Scheffers)

Conducted Brush Pickup and Park Mowing and Maintenance.
Continued Street Cleaning.
Completed Street Painting.
Added Stormwater Drain at lower Diving Street for Flushing.
Placed Parking wheel stops at Point.
Placed new topsoil on Wad Square.
Installed curbing at Cheseboro Lane and Meadow Ave.
Cleaned Elm Street Bridge Graffiti.

Thank you to COMO and SVIA for resolving the parking problems at the Point.

Last month there was mention by Jesse Diggs to pay attention to the wheel stops at the Point and we will be doing that.

Burgess Barnes asked about the graffiti on the Elm Street pedestrian bridge and Warden Scheffers said they had been removed. We are considering putting a camera up.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to 11 alarms (9 were in the Borough) in August 2025. They were as follows:

- 1) 8-2-2025 9:34am Unconscious person in water @ Stonington Town Dock (transported to hospital)
- 2) 8-6-2025 7:34pm Smoke investigation in area of Stonington Town Dock (nothing found)
- 3) 8-8-2025 10:15am Fire Alarm Activation 35 Main St. (burnt chicken on stove)
- 4) 8-10-2025 5:05pm Fire Alarm Activation 1 Stonington Commons (faulty detector 2nd floor)
- 5) 8-12-2025 12:18pm Wires down IFO 19 School St. (utility, moving van)
- 6) 8-13-25 2:57pm Fire Alarm Activation 19 E Grand St. (water in detector, 2nd floor hall)
- 7) 8-16-2025 10:28am Fire Alarm Activation 66 Water St. Breakwater Rest. (steam from cleaning grill in kitchen)
- 8) 8-16-2025 4:05pm Wires down IFO 19 School St. (utility, school bus)
- 9) 8-17-2025 8:10pm Fire Alarm Activation 348 N. Main St. (shower steam)
- 10) 8-19-2025 4:10pm Fire Alarm Activation 43 Water St. (water in detector, 1st floor)
- 11) 8-22-2025 1:15am Fire Alarm Activation 228 N. Water St. Don's Dock (nothing found)

This is the fourth time this summer power lines have been taken down by tall trucks.

The Chief brought up the subject of certain vehicles being allowed south of Cannon Square. This is on the agenda under New Business.

June Police Incident Report (Nicholas)

Got a call from Todd Olson that the speed sign is not working and will investigate having it replaced. The Flock camera is up and running. They capture license plates and are used for crimes.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

Have received some requests for trimming and pruning. Meeting Friday with Kevin Mucha of Bartlett. There will be some plantings this fall.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

During the month of August, the following maintenance and service items were addressed:

Borough Hall:

An elevator service call was conducted to ensure proper function and safety compliance. An AC/DC Generator service call was also completed, maintaining preparedness in the event of power interruptions.

Firehouse:

Stairwell light bulbs were replaced, significantly improving brightness and creating a safer environment for staff and volunteers.

The Fire Chief has requested replacement of the interior door leading from the common room to the hallway. This door has been in disrepair for an extended period and should be scheduled for replacement in order to maintain safety, accessibility, and functionality.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

Trash bins at the Point were removed. The bins worked quite well this summer. They are being replaced, and the Borough will pay \$35 a month off season. Trash will be picked up once a week on Friday. If we need more frequent pick up, we will arrange for that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Sibby Lynch of 188 Water Street questioned if the trash bins will be secured in case of high winds and/or hurricanes. Warden said yes, they will be.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Viaduct Update

We are meeting with Courtney's office tomorrow with Amy and Chief about the railroad crossing being reopened. We are requesting one lane opening to be used for emergency only.

Two repair design drawings (potentially three) have been requested from CT DOT (on the same footprint.) We proposed they make a single lane break down lane. We will have designs in early October.

There will be postings on the Borough website addressing communications pertaining to the viaduct. Burgess Barnes suggested there be a tab on the website titled Viaduct where updates would go.

Speed Cushions

The Board read the Police Commissioner's reports on requirements on speed cushions. Speed cushions would slow down emergency vehicles, the location would be at a place that has lot of traffic (at Pearl and Water). Sue Cordeiro does not want them. Burgess Nicholas advises we do not go through with them. The Burgesses and residents are welcome to ask more questions of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Resident Al Razzano asked that Public Comment be moved to Unfinished Business in the future. It will be put on the agenda next month for a possible vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Event application – Historic Stonington

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the application made by Jaime J. Lewis on behalf of Historic Stonington to use Wadawanuck Square (welcome/check-in tent) streets and sidewalks (will include porta-potty in Wad Square as well) for Historic House Tour – Historic Stonington on October 11, 2025, from 10 am – 4 pm, was approved.

Event application – PHGS Parking

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, the application made by Howard Taylor, vice-President of Portuguese Holy Ghost Society to use two (modified from the four spaces requested) parking spaces in front of PHGS, 26 Main St during the fish n chips fundraisers held on Fridays from 10/3/2025 through 11/21/25 from 11 am to 6:30 pm for pickup of take-out meals, was approved.

Wayland's Wharf Repairs

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the Phase 2 project proposal made by Kevin Brazia was accepted as a non-bid, sole source contract, in the amount of \$37,896.45.

This includes the reinforcing wall on the northwest corner where he had dug it up and put fill in.

Busses in Borough Discussion

Burgess Nicholas refreshed the Board on the time this became an ordinance over 10 years ago but was rescinded by the public after it was posted. Burgess Nicholas will talk with the Police about the signage and concerns about restricting busses and larger trucks south of Wadawanuck Square. She will also pull up the Ordinance from 10 years ago.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

Jesse Diggs sent a letter to the Board this morning. It was not within the 24-hour posting time

of the agenda. It will be on September agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 8:10 p.m., was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive session at 8:10 pm. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
September 23, 2025