

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting – May 17, 2021**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order, by way of Zoom conferencing video, at 7:00 p.m. Participating were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, and Shaun Mastroianni. Burgess Amanda Barnes was not in attendance. Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman took minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 19, 2021, were unanimously approved as submitted.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

All is going well. Working on cleaning up the Borough mailing list.

CORRESPONDENCE

Borough Property Use Requests:

Stonington Free Library: two requests – Mystery Dinner reception on Wad Square (July 24) and Open Mic sessions on Wad Square (monthly June-September).

Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce – Movie nights on Wad Square (July 13 & 27; August 9)

La Grua Center – Children’s concert on Wad Square, August 17

Hollycroft Foundation – Wimpeimer Park sculpture garden (June 2021 - ??)

Stonington Historical Society – Parade (July 4)

Meetings: None

Other:

Marybeth Bartholet – Candidate for P&Z Commission

Ellen Wightman – Curb cut request, 44 Main Street

Suisman Shapiro – Proposal for Borough Attorney services in FY22 and FY23

PKF O’Connor Davies – Engagement letter for auditing services for FY21

Stonington Historical Society – Request for funding to support 2021 Fourth of July parade.

Outgoing:

Letter of support for state grant for Calvary Church parish hall maintenance.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

2021 election for two-year terms for Warden and Burgesses was held on May 3. All paperwork has been submitted to Secretary of the State Office. 99 votes were cast.

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period April 20 through May 12, 2021, totaled \$141,535.68. Net income as of May 12, 2021, is \$344,993.45. Warden Callahan projects a year-end surplus of about \$80,000.

WARDEN'S MONTHLY REPORT

Participated in Zoom COVID-19 update with SCCOG and local health districts

Participated in Town Department Head meeting

Worked on Waldron-Williams Funds merger

Governor's Executive Orders set to expire on May 19th. Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have plateaued at about 20, while total deaths have risen to 446. Stonington Town deaths are 31 and total cases equal 1096.

Continued working on FEMA concerns about one resident's flood map revision request.

Installed banner encouraging residents to get vaccinated

Met with architect, SVIA president, and SFL director to review concept drawings for public restrooms

US Treasury Dept still developing guidelines for distributing American Rescue Act funds to municipalities. Joe Courtney's staff person estimates guidelines will be released late May

BOROUGH CLOCK –

Reset clock after power outage at United Church May 15

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

STREETS & SIDEWALKS (CALLAHAN)

Conducted monthly brush pickup

Continued spring street sweeping

Filled potholes

Painted crosswalks and directional arrows/signs

Issued 3 dumpster permits

FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (ROGERS/HOADLEY)

We responded to 7 Alarms in April 2021; they were as follows:

4-2-21 11:15am 7 Water St., Lighthouse Museum, assist SAC for a person fallen off the wall behind the museum. (Taken to hospital with facial injuries)

4-2-21 12:36pm Fire Alarm Activation 55 Church St. (burnt food)

4-2-21 7:52pm Mutual Aid to Quiambaug FD to block traffic at Rt. 1 & Montauk Ave. (MVA Rt. 1 @ Lords Hill Rd.)

4-3-21 6:16pm Fire Alarm Activation 31 Church St., Calvary Rectory (burnt cod fish)

4-9-21 9:53pm Structure Fire 20 Omega St. (chimney fire, no extension)

4-10-21 1:13pm Electrical Fire 122 Elm St. (sparks from outlet, nothing found, all ok)

4-30-21 7:31pm Large tree branch fallen on residence 71 Noyes Ave. Lords Pt. (power & utility lines down, EVERSOURCE enroute)

Chief Hoadley confirmed there are only three more payments due on the firetrucks.

He will report on the Open Burn Ordinance next month.

PARKS, TREES & RIGHTS OF WAY (BARNES)

None

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (MASTROIANNI)

Nothing new to report

PUBLIC INFORMATION (ROGERS)

Nothing to report

POLICE AND SANITATION (NICHOLAS)

During the month of April 2021 there were 33 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 8 Medical Assists, 6 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 6 Business/Building Checks, 3 Fire Related calls and 2 Suspicious Activities. There was one incident each of Welfare Check, Raffle Application, Domestic Disturbance, Assist Other Agency, Animal Control, Burglar Alarm (false alarm), Accident Private Lot and 911 Misdial.

There was one arrest related to the Domestic Disturbance.

Sanitation Report

Distributed several notices regarding yellow bag violations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Pam Mola asked why the Town of Stonington's FY-22 budget has a lower amount reimbursed to the Borough. Warden Callahan answered that if the Town's budget for roads goes down, the reimbursement to the Borough goes down.

Resident Pam Mola asked if we are getting any of the ARP money from the Town. Warden Callahan responded that just an hour before this meeting he received an email from Sen Murphy's office stating that the US Treasury Dept had issued guidelines for distributing ARP funds to states and local governments. Although he had not had time to read the 151-page guidance document, it appears the Borough is eligible for aid, which will flow from the State to the Town and then to the Borough. The amount of funding is calculated on a per capita basis.

NEW BUSINESS (Moved up in agenda)

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve the Stonington Free Library's requests to use Wadawanuck Square for The Mystery Dinner reception on Saturday July 24, 2021 (Rain date: Sunday, July 25, 2021) from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm AND monthly open-mic events where participants can share writing, poetry and music on the third Tuesday of the month (6/15/21 – 9/21/21) from 3:30 to 5:30 pm (the August 17 time may be modified to avoid conflict with La Grua's Kids Concert), was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve La Grua Center's request to use Wadawanuck Square for a Concert for Kids with Bergin O'Malley on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm (concert from 6:00 to 7:00 pm), was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce's request to use the grassy area in front of the Stonington Free Library on Wadawanuck Square for free family movies at dusk three times this summer (July 13, July 27 and August 9th) from 8:30 – 10:30 pm pending the notification and discussion with abutting neighbors, was unanimously approved. The Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce owns their own sound system, projector and screen. The licensing fees are paid by local sponsors. Proposed movies are Hook, The War with Grandpa, and Grease. A local business has been approached about covering the cost of a porta-potty.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve the Hollycroft Foundations' Sculpture Garden in Wimpeimer Park for two years ending in June 2023, with the stipulations by Warden Callahan that anchoring of sculptures be improved and that sculptures be installed such that they leave space for other recreational activities in the

Park, was unanimously approved. Brian Wendler reported that Hollycroft's website is current, there is a sign in Wimpeimer Park to direct people to their website for a guide for the show, they are on Facebook, working on a tourism listing, posters for Farmers' Market and around town. He will contact Warden Callahan about the maintenance of the park and where to put signage.

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the Stonington Historical Society's request to use Main, Water, Broad Streets and Wadawanuck Square for the Fourth of July Parade on Sunday July 4, 2021 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, was unanimously approved. There is money in the Borough budget in the amount of \$2,000 to support the parade.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to appoint Marybeth Bartholet to Planning & Zoning Commission as an alternate with her term expiring in 2024, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the request by Ellen Wightman to make a curb cut at 44 Main Street, was unanimously approved. Warden Callahan asked that the contractor contact him before any cuts are made in the curb.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to accept Suisman Shapiro's fee proposal and appoint Nicholas Kepple as the Borough attorney through May 2023, was unanimously approved. The fee will now be \$10,000 annually, paid in quarterly payments.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to appoint PKF O'Connor Davies as auditors for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, was unanimously approved. We are required to notify the State by the end of May.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to waive the bid requirement and to award Hastedt Bros a contract to repave sections of Union and Grand Streets, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to appoint Michael Schefers as the Borough tax assessor, was unanimously approved. Warden Callahan will send Michael Schefers a letter that the Board has named him the Borough tax assessor.

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Warden Callahan, to re-appoint Jesse Diggs and Sherman Crites to Stonington Harbor Management Commission, terms ending June 30, 2024, was unanimously approved. Jesse Diggs summarized the revision of the Plan to clarify the Harbor Management's jurisdiction. The Commission expanded the no-wake zone at Sandy Point. Warden Callahan will email both men.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to appoint Burgess Nicholas as Public Safety Commissioner (which includes both Police and Fire); Burgess Barnes as Parks and Trees Commissioner; Burgess Mastroianni as Public Buildings

Commissioner; Burgess Rogers as Public Utilities and Sanitation Commissioner; and Warden Callahan as Streets and Sidewalks Commissioner for two year terms, was unanimously approved.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to re-appoint Burgess Mastroianni as the Senior Burgess, was unanimously approved. The Senior Burgess fills in for the Warden in his/her absence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status of Covid-19 in area and state; reopening plans

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to reopen Borough buildings beginning May 19th, was unanimously approved. The following will be posted on Borough buildings and on the website. NOTICE: BOROUGH BUILDINGS OPEN

PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR LAMONT'S ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING MASK REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTICUT, BOROUGH HALL AND THE BOROUGH FIRE HOUSE ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BEGINNING WEDNESDAY MAY 19TH. THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY WHEN ENTERING EITHER BUILDING:

1. FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS, BUT MAY DO SO IF THEY WISH.
2. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOT FULLY VACCINATED ARE EXPECTED TO WEAR MASKS OR FACE COVERING WHILE THEY ARE IN THE BUILDING.

BEGINNING JUNE 1, MEETINGS OF BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS WILL BE HELD IN BOROUGH HALL. THE PUBLIC AND PERSONS HAVING BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD OR COMMISSION ARE WELCOME. THE RULES CONCERNING FACE COVERINGS DURING A PUBLIC MEETING ARE THE SAME AS FOR ENTERING BOROUGH HALL AT OTHER TIMES.

Lower Water Street traffic and parking

Additional two-way traffic painting has been done. Resident Jessie Diggs remarked that people don't see the signs and that the pull over area is not distinct. He suggested YIELD be painted on the street. Burgess Mastroianni suggested making the sidewalks narrower between Cannon Square and Diving Street. Warden Callahan will ask the Town if they have a YIELD stencil. The highway will execute the painting.

Burgess Rogers distributed GIS photos of lower Water Street and Wadawanuck Square to the Board, highlighting potential parking spaces.

Warden Callahan asked Burgess Rogers to get a proposal from Damien Sorento to design and paint the lines on lower Water Street with an option to do painting on Wadawanuck Square.

Update on Open Burning Ordinance

Chief Hoadley continues to work on this and hopes to bring a draft forward at the June meeting.

Update on public restrooms

Warden Callahan met with Deb Norman, Janet McLendon (SVIA) and architect Julia Leeming. Ms Leeming will prepare renderings of the building after the survey of Wad Square is completed. Survey to be started shortly.

Discuss resident survey

Burgesses Rogers and Mastroianni continue to work on a survey to be mailed to all Borough residents. Rogers and Mastroianni volunteered to work on stuffing and sealing envelopes.

Consider appointing a member of the Board to be a Trustee of the combined Waldron-Williams fund when established

There is a meeting this week to go over the by-laws. Tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

Burgess Rogers commented on the SHYC flare demonstration at the Point, which he said was well done. Many people attended.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, adjournment of the meeting at 8:58 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
May 24, 2021