

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting ~ May 20, 2013

CALL TO ORDER:

- A. The regular Monthly Meeting of the Borough of Stonington Warden and Burgesses was called to order in Borough Hall at 7:30 PM by Warden Jeffrey Callahan. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Michael Blair, Sibby Lynch, Amy Nicholas, Howard Park, Robert Scala, and Clerk-Treasurer Brian Krafjack.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Park, acceptance of the minutes from the Board Meeting held on April 27, 2013 was unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT (PERRY):

- A. Received tax collections for April: \$1,500.
- B. Received payment for previously billed sidewalk (Patrick): \$800.
- C. Received funds for VFIS claim (fire truck damage): \$154.
- D. Received repayment to General Fund from Williams Fund: \$2,700.
- E. Coordinated with Clerk- Treasurer and Registrars for election preparations.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT (KRAFJACK):

- A. Coordinated absentee ballots with absentee voters, Administrative Assistant Perry, and Stonington Registrars.
- B. Participated in discussions during the election with Stonington Registrars and an elections attorney at the Office of the Secretary of State regarding eligibility of candidate for Assessor.
- C. Met with the Stonington Registrars and election moderators on election night, after the polls had close, to receive the reports of moderators and the official vote count.
- D. Filed required post-election forms with the Office of the Secretary of State.

REVIEW OF BILLS:

- A. The 4/19/13 through 5/16/13 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office.

REVIEW OF PROFIT/LOSS STATEMENT:

- A. The 7/1/12 through 5/16/13 Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual Report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office.
 - 1. The budget is in good shape for the end of the year with a positive net income of \$115,640.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Informational:
 - 1. Town of Stonington: Notice of Public Hearing on 6/4/13 for regulation amendment.
 - 2. Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA): Member's Equity distribution letter; the Borough share will be \$1,470.

B. Requests:

1. Stonington Community Center (COMO) Village Fair: special events paperwork.
2. Stonington ALS Walk: special events paperwork.
3. Stonington Fun Runs and Battle of Stonington 5K run: special events paperwork.
4. Stonington Historical Society 6/29/13 event: special events paperwork.

C. Invitations/ Meetings:

1. None.

D. Other:

1. United Church sign request for 5/18/13 event.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. Recorded under "Other Business" in these minutes.

WARDEN'S REPORT:

A. New Board members:

1. Warden Callahan congratulated the members of the Board, incumbents as well as new burgesses, and the clerk/treasurer and tax collector on their impressive victories in the election.

B. Nomination of Commissioners:

1. Per the Borough Charter, Burgess Callahan nominated the following burgesses to serve as commissioners in the new term:
 - a. Michael Adair – Public Buildings;
 - b. Michael Blair – Fire and Emergency Management;
 - c. Sibby Lynch – Parks, Trees, and Rights-of-Way;
 - d. Amy Nicholas – Police and Public Affairs;
 - e. Howard Park – Streets;
 - f. Bob Scala – Sidewalks;
 - g. Jeffrey Callahan – Sanitation, Public Lighting, Utilities, and Keeper of the Borough Clock.
2. Warden Callahan asked that each commissioner develop a brief written list of goals to be achieved over the course of the next two years and to present those goals as part of their report at the July regular meeting.
3. Appointment requires a vote by the full Board.
 - a. On a motion by Burgess Adair, seconded by Burgess Blair, Warden Callahan's nominations, in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Borough Charter, of burgesses to serve as commissioners in the new term was unanimously approved.

C. Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) Meeting:

1. Warden Callahan attended the monthly meeting of SCCOG in Norwich on Wednesday, May 15th. There is concern that the state will further cut funding to municipalities in order to achieve a balanced budget. While any cut in state support is unwelcome, it would not cause a huge problem for the Borough, where state aid makes up less than 1 percent of our revenue.

D. Public restrooms at Wastewater Pollution Control Facility:

1. Warden Callahan attended a meeting called by First Selectman Ed Haberek at the Town Hall to discuss the feasibility and desirability of renovating and reopening the rest rooms in the Wastewater Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) at town dock.
 - a. Warden Callahan noted that Burgess Adair, former Warden Paul Burgess, Clerk-Treasurer Krafjack, and Zoning Enforcement Officer Atkinson looked at the existing restrooms in the WPCF last summer and considered the order of magnitude cost for renovations and accessibility upgrades to be around \$60,000 (reference August 20,2012 Board Meeting minutes).
2. New England Science and Sailing (NESS) has a state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) grant of about \$200,000 that they cannot use, which may be repurposed for other water-related goals.
 - a. If the Board agrees that it is worth exploring this concept, on the condition that the NESS grant can be redirected for this purpose, Spike Lobdell and Warden Callahan will meet with DEEP to determine if that can be done.
 - b. The grant and the associated construction would be managed by the Town staff.
 - c. There were no objections voiced by the Board to Warden Callahan exploring the concept.
3. Warden Callahan said that an alternative approach to renovating the existing restrooms at the WPCF is building a new facility similar to the one behind the high school (see photograph below) for use by the public.



- a. Burgess Lynch asked Warden Callahan if the concept was to build a facility using the exact unit in the photograph, noting it was not very aesthetically pleasing.
- b. Warden Callahan responded that no decisions have been made about the exact configuration; the photograph was provided for information on how similar facilities have been handled in other locations.

4. Borough Resident Jesse Diggs, a commission member of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission, explained that the grant stipulates that the funds are used for enhancements to the harbor for transient boaters. Mr. Diggs noted that the funds require matching contributions of 20 or 25 percent, and the funds cannot be used for ongoing operations or maintenance expenses.
5. Warden Callahan said that since the WPCF is owned by the Town of Stonington, discussions with the Town about capital costs and ongoing maintenance are necessary.

E. Reimbursing travel expenses:

1. Warden Callahan said that he anticipates representing the Borough at a number of out-of-town meetings, and since the Borough does not own any passenger vehicles, he would like to institute a practice of reimbursing travel by private vehicle for official business that would apply to all elected officials and employees.
 - a. The policy would apply to travel that involves total mileage of at least 20 miles.
 - b. Reimbursement would be at the state mandated rate, currently \$0.56 per mile. Funds would come from the budget line item 129, General Government, Miscellaneous.
 - c. There were no objections from the Board for instituting this policy.
 - d. Administrative Assistant Perry has developed a simple form that can be filled in and submitted monthly.

F. Ash Street Beach:

1. The issue of seaweed, mostly eel grass, collecting on the beach at the end of Ash Street is coming up again (see photograph below).
 - a. Discussion is recorded under “New Business” in these minutes.



STREETS (BURGESS PARK):

- A. Highway Department summer hours:
 1. Burgess Park spoke with the Highway Crew on 5/16/2013 about their request to work summer hours; Burgess Park granted the request.
 - a. The crew asked if they could skip their 15 minute breaks and Burgess Park told them that policy requires that they take these breaks.

- b. Burgess Park told the crew that they could skip their lunch break if they decided to do that.
 - c. The crew's work day will start at 6 AM and will end between 2 and 3 PM, depending on whether they take a lunch break.
 - d. Burgess Park explained that there will be no overtime pay while working summer hours; the crew understood.
- B. Concrete tire blocks in The Point parking lot:
- 1. Burgess Park said that, at the request of the crew, the tire blocks will not have to be reinstalled in the parking lot, adding that if the Stonington Historical Society (SHS) will be using the lot for events, the blocks will have to be put in place.
 - a. Burgess Blair asked Burgess Park why he did not want the blocks installed. Burgess Park responded that they are visually objectionable.
 - b. Burgess Blair noted that during the summer the lot is full at least one or two days of every week and many spaces would be lost to chaos if the blocks were not in place. Burgess Blair said he would like to see the blocks installed.
 - c. Burgess Scala said that the blocks help to define a circulation path and it is important that a path be kept clear for emergency vehicles.
 - d. Warden Callahan suggested that the blocks be installed for the SHS Gala at the end of June, and left in place through the Labor Day weekend.
 - e. Burgess Park agreed to have the blocks put back in place during June.
- C. Street Sweeping:
- 1. Burgess Park said street sweeping activities are almost done.
- D. Wall Street Parking Lot:
- 1. Burgess Park said the Wall Street Parking lot will be re-graded soon.
- E. Memorial Day Holiday:
- 1. Burgess Park said the Highway Crew will work on Monday to pick up garbage and set up flags in Wadawanuck Square.
 - a. Burgess Park noted that there will be no Holiday pay since the crew is working summer hours.
- F. Curb cut request at 24 Northwest Street:
- 1. Burgess Park received a request for a curb cut from the property owners. The curb cut would actually be on High Street, directly opposite another driveway.
 - a. Burgess Park said that he thinks the proposed location is good.
 - b. Adjacent property owners have been notified.
 - 2. Burgess Scala said that a plan should be submitted to the Board for review.
 - a. Burgess Blair agreed and said that he would like to review plans in advance of Board Meetings where curb cuts will be discussed.
 - 3. No action was taken on the request for a curb cut.
- G. Town of Stonington street milling and paving on Elm Street:
- 1. Burgess Park had spoken with Joe Bragaw, the Town of Stonington Director of Public Works, about the possibility of working with the Borough while the construction equipment is available.
 - a. Mr. Bragaw explained to Burgess Park that the milling equipment has already completed its activities and has been moved to another location.

2. Burgess Blair noted that the Borough gets reimbursed by the Town as a percentage of what the Town spends on road and infrastructure repair.
 - a. Burgess Blair added that the Town is paying for this work with a bond rather than a budget line item, and that this expense should not be excluded from the formula for Borough reimbursement.

H. Highway Department Capital Improvement Plan:

1. Burgess Park had spoken with Joey Hastedt of Hastedt Brothers Paving, who has performed road work for the Borough under the previous administration.
 - a. Burgess Park noted that Hastedt Brothers' work has been very good and their prices have been very competitive.
 - b. Burgess Park will be discussing work on Temple Street, as well as other streets outlined in the Highway Department Capital Improvement Plan with Hastedt Brothers as a reference point for pricing future road work.

I. School Street Parking:

1. Discussion recorded under "New Business" of these minutes.

J. Sign at Stonington Commons:

1. Warden Callahan asked Burgess Park if he objected to the removal of a sign at Stonington Commons as a part of work being performed at this time.
 - a. Burgess Park voiced no objection.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (BURGESS BLAIR):

A. Consolidation of Companies within Fire Department:

1. Burgess Blair met with Warden Callahan and Chief Hoadley to discuss consolidation of the Companies within the Fire Department.
 - a. Burgess Blair noted that this issue is high on Chief Hoadley's agenda and that he and Warden Callahan will be meeting again with the Chief and Attorney Block who is an advisor to the Fire Department.

B. Fire Marshal's Report for the period from 4/2/2013 to 4/30/2013:

1. 4/2/13 Fire alarm activation- Stonington Commons.
2. 4/3/13 Lift assist 99 Water Street.
3. 4/8/13 Fire alarm activation- Stonington Commons.
4. 4/10/13 Calvary Church.
5. 4/18/13 Fire alarm activation- 48 Collins Road (first event).
6. 4/18/13 Fire alarm activation- 48 Collins Road (second event).
7. 4/19/13 Fire alarm activation- 145 Water Street.
8. 4/30/13 Fire alarm activation- 5 Omega Street.

C. No-parking Fire Zones:

1. Burgess Blair asked if notices could be placed under the windshield wipers of cars parked in fire zones.
 - a. Warden Callahan asked Burgess Blair to develop a template for the notice.
2. Burgess Scala asked if a constable would be on duty during the summer.
 - a. Warden Callahan responded in the affirmative.

PARKS, TREES, AND RIGHTS OF WAY (BURGESS LYNCH):

A. General:

1. Burgess Lynch reported that the new Borough truck is going to Ashaway, RI for its regular maintenance visit.
 - a. The crew takes the truck to RI because they get the truck fixed faster in that service station than anywhere else they have used locally.
 - b. The truck is running well.
 - c. The crew regrets that the Borough didn't spend the extra \$4,000 to give them the automatic shift option they requested and need for plowing. The crew told Burgess Lynch that the automatic shift would be better for the gears and not as hard on the plow operator; the standard shift is exhausting to use.

B. Parks:

1. The Highway Department crew has started their summer mowing schedule, mowing about once a week. They watch the weather closely, mowing when it's dry enough, to avoid clumping. A few years ago it was so dry that they didn't mow for two months.
2. Ruts and bare spots have been filled and seeded at La Grua Park and Wayland's Wharf.
 - a. Salt proof grass seeds are not being used this year at Wayland's Wharf because the grass it produced last season wasn't very nice.
3. On Memorial Day, although a holiday, the crew will come early in the morning to put the flags up around Wadawanuck Square and they will empty the metal dog-waste baskets.
 - a. Burgess Lynch said she was struck by the pride the highway crew has in the Borough.
4. Last summer the budget included \$2,000 for an additional helper, Kyle Mola, who worked 20 hours a week for ten weeks.
 - a. This \$2,000 was cut from this year's budget.
 - b. The crew told Burgess Lynch that the extra help was particularly needed picking up garden waste (see discussion under item 5 below).
 - c. Warden Callahan said that he thought hiring a helper for the crew was a good idea, and asked that Burgess Lynch convey to the crew that the Board will find a summer helper.
 - d. Burgess Lynch said that Mr. Mola is not available this summer.
 - e. Warden Callahan asked Burgess Lynch and Park to look for a candidate.
5. Burgess Lynch reported that the crew said that black plastic bags used by some residents for disposal of lawn and garden debris are very difficult and time-consuming to empty.
 - a. The crew would prefer that residents use paper bags designed for this purpose, which are sold at Tom's News, and reportedly cost less than heavy-duty black plastic lawn bags.
 - b. The crew can throw the paper bags right into the truck, which is very efficient.
 - c. Plastic bags cannot be thrown in the truck and empty bags left on the sidewalks are sometimes not picked up by homeowners for days. The bags would either blow around or become a soggy mess that the crew had to pick up.
 - d. Burgess Lynch asked that the Board spread the word about the benefits of using the paper bags.
 - e. Burgess Adair suggested a notice be posted at Tom's News.
 - f. Burgess Nicholas said that she could post a notice on the Borough website as part of her communications duties.

C. Trees:

1. Burgess Lynch noted that the “Tree Book,” a catalogue of the Borough’s trees, is being updated.
 - a. Warden Callahan noted that Borough resident Sarah Blair did a lot of work on this impressive book.
2. The Library has requested a map of the trees in Wadawanuck Square and their identifications, noting that many people ask for this.
 - a. Burgess Lynch will take this on, perhaps as a group project including adults and children.
 - b. Trees given as memorials could be noted here, replacing the use of plaques in the park.
 - c. Warden Callahan suggested a brochure about the history of the Square, including a catalog of trees, might be a good idea.
3. The two Lindens at High and Main streets need to be fumigated for the insect blight that creates the sticky, black substance that falls from the trees.
 - a. Burgess Lynch noted that if the trees are to be fumigated, it should be done soon.
 - b. Warden Callahan said that Burgess Lynch should schedule this work, if she feels it is appropriate, noting that it will be paid for from the Parks, Trees, and Rights of Ways budget.
 - c. Borough Resident Peg Abramson asked Burgess Lynch what will be used to fumigate the trees.
 - d. Burgess Lynch said she would find out for Ms. Abramson.
4. Eileen Cerniglia had contacted Warden Callahan, offering to donate a Northern Red Oak for planting in Wadawanuck Square.
 - a. The sapling was given to honor her recently deceased mother, Helen Higgins, mother of the thirteen Higgins children; Ms. Higgins spent numerous hours in the Park.
 - b. Burgess Lynch reported that the sapling was in a 2 inch by 2 inch box, and therefore may not be an appropriate size for planting in the Square.
 - c. Burgess Lynch suggested that a certain caliber of tree, appropriate for planting on Borough property, be established.
5. Burgess Lynch said that there are at least three places in the Park that might be good locations for trees.
 - a. Burgess Lynch and Maggie Revill selected a location for the Christmas tree, southeast of the previous tree’s location. Burgess Lynch asked the Board if they would like to weigh in on the proposed location.
 - b. Burgess Lynch noted that arborist Brad Painter and the Stonington Village Improvement Association (SVIA) had already selected a location that was agreed upon by the previous administration.
 - c. Burgess Lynch said that he would like to see a small red flag placed in the proposed location so that he and other Board members could see the location.
 - d. Burgess Lynch requested permission to move ahead with the purchase and planting of the tree and asked who was funding this.
 - e. Warden Callahan said that the tree had already been approved by the previous administration (reference April 27, 2013 Board meeting minutes) and will be paid for from the Parks, Trees, and Rights of Ways budget.
6. Burgess Lynch said that she is interested in planting another elm across from the Post Office.
 - a. This new tree would mirror the Elm across from St. Mary’s Church.

- b. Burgess Lynch knows two people who would like to help fund it.
- c. Burgess Park said that he thought this was a good idea and cautioned Burgess Lynch that the tree should be placed far enough away from the curb so that the roots to not become an issue.
- d. Borough resident Maggie Revill, representing Friends of Wadawanuck Square (Friends) said that Friends would be interested in contributing to defray the cost of this new tree.

D. Rights of Way:

- 1. Burgess Lynch and Burgess Nicholas will walk the ROWs.

SANITATION, UTILITIES, AND STREET LIGHTS (WARDEN CALLAHAN):

A. Sanitation:

- 1. No activity to report.

B. Utilities:

- 1. No activity to report.

C. Borough Clock:

- 1. No activity to report.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (BURGESS ADAIR):

A. Borough Hall Renovation Project:

- 1. Burgess Adair reports that the Borough hall project is complete and signed off by the Borough, the architect, and the contractor, W.R. Allen.
 - a. Door signs are up and the bills are paid.
 - b. There are a few things left to be done, such as the painting of the fascia by the gutters, which is in the works.
 - c. Burgess Adair said he thinks the improvements are meaningful and will make Borough Hall a more effective place for our residents.
 - d. Burgess Scala congratulated Burgess Adair on a job well done.
 - e. Burgess Adair said he wished to thank the contractor, architect Peter Springsteel, former Warden Paul Burgess, and Clerk- Treasurer Krafjack for their efforts throughout the project.
- 2. Burgess Park asked if there are any plans to fix the starter on the old generator.
 - a. Warden Callahan said it would be best to start from scratch, with a new generator.

SIDEWALKS (BURGESS SCALA):

- A. Discussion recorded under “Old Business” of these minutes.

POLICE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AND COMMUNICATIONS (BURGESS NICHOLAS):

A. Police Incident Report:

- 1. During the month of April 2013 there were thirty-seven (37) incidences in the police report for the Borough including:
 - a. Medical assists: 6
 - b. 911/fire/alarm/false alarm calls: 11
 - c. Animal control calls: 3
 - d. Pistol permit background checks: 2
 - e. Motor vehicle accident/injury: 2
 - f. Auto/parking complaints: 2
 - g. Instances of phone larceny(scams): 2

2. No issues of interest or concern about police matters in the Borough have been conveyed to the Borough by the Police Department.

B. Website/ Communications:

1. No Activity to report.

C. Events:

1. No activity to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Discuss possible revisions to Street/ Sidewalk Ordinance:

1. Burgess Scala said it is difficult to approach Borough residents and give notice that they are responsible for repairs to sidewalks at their property when the damage has been caused by roots of trees owned by the Borough.
 - a. Burgess Adair said there must be a concept for which the Board should aim; perhaps establishing a policy that the Borough will be responsible for shaving the tree roots when repairs are made.
 - b. Burgess Scala agreed, but said it does not address the issue of who should be responsible for the sidewalk repair.
 - c. Burgess Adair said that if removable bluestones were used, as used for some sidewalks in the Borough, the repair becomes limited to removal and resetting of the bluestones.
 - d. Burgess Park noted that sometimes the trees owned by the Borough were planted upon request of the property owner. Warden Callahan said the "Tree Book" should document who planted a tree.
 - e. Issues of liability due to injuries caused by uneven sidewalks were discussed; Burgess Adair noting that when repairs become necessary, we cannot let allow situations to remain unresolved.
2. Burgess Scala said that he feels legal counsel should be consulted for revisions to the ordinance.
 - a. Warden Callahan agreed, but asked that Burgess Scala make a first draft.

B. Consider applications for use of Stonington Borough Property Including Streets received from Stonington Community Center, Stonington Walk for ALS, Stonington Historical Society, and Stonington Fun Runs and Battle of Stonington 5k:

1. Burgess Nicholas said that the SHS and the Fun Run have not contacted the Stonington Police, as they should, so that the police department is aware that the events are taking place.
 - a. Burgess Nicholas said she would inform the police department of these events.
2. Burgess Adair said that historically, the Stonington Walk for ALS has been an issue since it is not sponsored by an organization from the Borough.
 - a. Burgess Blair explained that many of the organizers and participants in the event were friends of Nonie from Nonie's Deli.
 - b. Burgess Park said that he was not aware of problems caused by the event in the past.
 - c. Burgess Adair explained that the event and the organizers are not the problem, it is the precedent set by allowing out of town organizations use the Borough for their events.
3. On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Blair, the following applications for use of Stonington Borough property, including streets, was unanimously approved.

Stonington Community Center (COMO) Annual Village Fair:

- a. Date/time: 8/3/2013, 10 AM to 4 PM (setup 8/2/2013, 7 AM- breakdown 8/4/2013, 6 PM).
- b. Location: Wadawanuck Square including High Street.
- c. Additional information: Includes dumpster permit, closing a portion of High Street across from Stonington Free Library, and placement of a sign on Wadawanuck Square one week prior to event.

Stonington Walk for ALS:

- a. Date/time: 7/27/2013, 10 AM to noon; cleanup complete by 1 PM.
- b. Location: Firehouse to Town Dock.

Stonington Historical Society (SHS) Annual Black Tie Dinner:

- a. Date/time: 6/29/2013, 6 PM to midnight.
- b. Location: The Old Lighthouse Museum.
- c. Additional information: Valet parking at The Point.

Stonington Fun Runs and Battle of Stonington 5k:

- a. Date/time: 5/28/2013 through 8/27/2013, 6 PM to 6:30 PM.
- b. Location: Various streets in the Borough, starting and finishing at Dog Watch Café.

4. Burgess Nicholas asked if the Borough should be notifying residents that an event will be taking place.
 - a. Warden Callahan said that at a minimum, a notice should be placed on the Borough website.
 - b. Burgess Adair noted that when the Board placed restrictions on the display of banners for events, it reduced the public's awareness of the events.
 - c. Warden Callahan suggested that the Board may want to take another look at the restrictions placed on banners.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Fiscal Year 2014 Borough employee salaries:

1. Warden Callahan asked the Board whether they felt salary increases should be considered on an individual basis, or as an across the board increase of 2 percent, which is equivalent to the amount allocated in the budget.
 - a. Burgess Blair suggested that establishing increases on an individual basis could become complicated, and since the Board is pleased with the performance of all of the Borough staff, a fixed percentage increase would be most appropriate.
2. On a motion by Burgess Adair, seconded by Burgess Park, a 2 percent pay raise for all eight Borough employees, effective 7/1/2013, was unanimously approved.

B. Employee health insurance:

1. Warden Callahan said that Oxford Health is the provider for the 3 Borough employees covered by the health insurance plan.
 - a. Warden Callahan recommended we keep the same coverage since the 3 employees are pleased with the coverage and service.
 - b. Warden Callahan said that not all the employees were happy with the contribution the Borough made to their health savings account, noting that this is a separate issue and not tied to coverage.
2. There were no objections raised by the Board to continuing the Oxford Health plan.

- C. Parking at The Point and other south of Cannon Square issues:
1. At the request of Borough Resident Jesse Diggs, Burgess Park looked at the possibility of painting hash marks on School Street to delineate parking spaces.
 - a. Mr. Diggs suggested that the distance between hash marks should be made very efficient, to maximize the number of parking spaces.
 - b. Burgess Nicholas expressed concern that vehicles parked too close to street intersections create hazards due to poor sightlines and may obstruct emergency vehicles passage.
 - c. Mr. Diggs said that he is concerned about the spaces between curb cuts and not with parking spaces from curb cut to intersections, noting that the intersections are well marked for emergency vehicle passage.
 - d. Burgess Park asked Mr. Diggs if he would volunteer to help establish the spacing of the markings; Mr. Diggs agreed to be present to assist.
 2. Mr. Diggs suggested that residents be allowed to park overnight in The Point parking lot.
 - a. Warden Callahan said that it sounds like a reasonable proposal, but it would require an ordinance revision and the Board would need the input of the Stonington Police and the SVIA.
 - b. Burgess Nicholas will discuss the concept with the police, and Warden Callahan will discuss the concept with the SVIA.
 3. Mr. Diggs said that parking on Water Street and Main Street makes it very difficult for two vehicles to pass in opposing directions at the same time.
 - a. Mr. Diggs suggested making each street running in the east-west direction between Water Street and Main Street, a one-way street in alternating directions.
 - b. Warden Callahan said it would be very complicated process to start changing the direction of traffic flow within the Borough.
- D. Ash Street seaweed:
1. Ash Street resident Peg Abramson noted that the algae is already building up on the beach and beginning to smell, even in cool weather.
 - a. Ms. Abramson said that the Borough did a great job last year cleaning and grading the beach, but Hurricane Sandy silted the beach back into the seawall.
 - b. Borough resident Beth Leamon said that the Ash Street Beach problem impacts residents on Diving Street, noting that she can't sit on her deck due to the seaweed/ algae smell.
 2. Warden Callahan said that he has contacted CT DEEP, since any activity on the beach would be regulated, and is waiting for a response.
 - a. There is a ROW up to the beach, but the State of Connecticut owns the "land" to mean high water, where the majority of the accumulation of seaweed/ algae occurs.
 - b. The Borough has removed the seaweed/ algae for the past 2 years at the request of Borough residents expressing health concerns.

3. Burgess Blair expressed concerns about incurring an annual expense for seaweed/ algae removal.
 - a. Burgess Blair said perhaps we should look at the possibility of elevating the beach or look at other “natural solutions” to the problem, rather than spending money every year cleaning up the beach.
 4. Warden Callahan said that addressing the problem is a multi-stepped process, and that the Borough won’t get approval to reengineer the beach in 30 days.
 - a. The Borough will resolve to clean up the seaweed/ algae this year, while continuing to look at a long term solution.
 - b. Warden Callahan noted that Connecticut shoreline towns, from Greenwich to Stonington, are facing similar issues.
- E. Alice Fitzpatrick proclamation:
1. Warden Callahan explained that it would be appropriate to recognize Borough resident Alice Fitzpatrick’s efforts, dedication, and achievements in leadership of local community foundations by proclaiming May 30, 2013 as “Alice Fitzpatrick Day” in the Borough.
 2. On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, proclamation of Thursday May 30, 2013 to be Alice F. Fitzpatrick Day in the Borough of Stonington was unanimously approved.
 3. A copy of the proclamation is available in the Borough Office.
- F. Appointment of Borough attorney:
1. In accordance with Chapter 3, Section 4 of the Borough Charter, the Warden shall nominate an attorney to be the legal advisor of the Board.
 - a. Warden Callahan said he would like to approach several local firms and negotiate a flat fee for routine work, and establish an hourly rate for more complex matters.
 - b. Burgess Blair suggested the attorney should have experience with municipal approvals.
 - c. Warden Callahan said that the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) has their own attorney paid for by their budget. P&Z are happy with the attorney they use and would like to continue that relationship.
 - d. Burgess Park suggested Warden Callahan talk to Nick Kepple; Warden Callahan said that he had intended on speaking with him for these services.
 - e. Burgess Blair suggested that Board members email names of candidates for consideration to Warden Callahan, adding that selection of the attorney is at the sole discretion of the Warden.
 2. Burgess Blair asked Warden Callahan what was included in the budget for legal services.
 - a. Warden Callahan said that the line item for professional services, which includes engineering services, is \$25,000 with \$20,000 set aside for legal services.
 3. Borough Resident Beth Leamon suggested that Warden Callahan contact her father, Ted Ladwig, who has provided services for the Town of Stonington.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. Public Comment; Borough Resident Jessie Diggs:
 - 1. Mr. Diggs asked why the opportunity for public comment is listed at the beginning of the Board Meeting agendas, noting that he does not know about which he would like to comment until he hears what has transpired during the meeting.
 - a. Warden Callahan said that public comment used to be at the end of the Board Meeting agenda, but was changed to the beginning of the agenda because residents were complaining that they had to sit through the entire meeting.
 - b. Warden Callahan asked Mr. Diggs if he had any comments for the Board.
 - 2. Mr. Diggs said that he had 3 topics which he would like to discuss, the first being curb cuts.
 - a. Curb cuts should not be considered a one-for-one trade of a parking space on the street to an off street parking space.
 - b. If the resident leaves for an extended period of time, a parking space is lost on the street at the curb cut.
 - c. Burgess Park suggested that if the curb cut provides off-street parking for more than one vehicle, then it is an advantage.
 - 3. The second topic Mr. Diggs wished to comment on was the concrete tire blocks in The Point parking lot.
 - a. Mr. Diggs feels the wheel stops are useful because they provide organization for the parking lot.
 - b. Mr. Diggs feels they should be in place from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.
 - c. Burgess Park said that he plans to have the highway crew put them in place right away.
 - 4. Mr. Diggs' third topic was sidewalks and trees.
 - a. Mr. Diggs said he feels it is a problem that the Borough won't take ownership of the sidewalks.
 - b. Burgess Scala said that Borough Ordinance SBO 01 establishes the fact that every person owning property abutting a sidewalk shall maintain conditions safe for passage of pedestrians.
 - c. Burgess Blair said it would be difficult to change the ordinance.
 - d. Mr. Diggs said that the residents on School Street were given the opportunity to select their own material when sidewalks had to be replaced. Mr. Diggs said the "mix and match" does not look very good.
 - e. Members of the Board said they liked the variety of materials.
- B. Public Comment; Maggie Revill for Friends of Wadawanuck Square:
 - 1. Ms. Revill said that the Garden Club is willing to contribute towards maintenance of Wadawanuck Square.
 - a. The Garden Club will contribute \$1,000 towards cabling and pruning of trees with the understanding that the Borough would provide \$1,000 of matching funds.
 - b. The Garden Club does not have the money this year to contribute towards aeration and liming of the lawn in the Square.
 - c. Ms. Revill asked if the Board would pay for aeration and liming, which would cost \$921.
 - d. Burgess Adair asked if the Borough could get a machine for aeration that would work with the Borough's tractor.
 - e. Warden Callahan suggested Ms. Revill continue this conversation "off-line" since funds would come from the Park, Trees, and Rights of Way budget, and the decision of how to allocate those funds rests with Burgess Lynch.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A. On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Park, adjournment of the meeting at 9:15 PM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Krajack
Clerk- Treasurer