## BOROUGH OF STONINGTON

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July 2025

Dear Fellow Resident:

I want to follow up on my August letter and continue to communicate issues facing the Borough and update you on recent events.

We returned to Borough Hall in late January, resuming office hours there. The restroom work is now complete and open 7am to 7pm daily for public use. Julia Leming did an amazing job in integrating the new restroom into sense of place and character.

Please be advised that our Borough weather events cause or can cause home flooding. I recommend that all homeowners review what flood insurance you have and should have on your property. Please review the current Flood Awareness Letter issued by the Town and the Borough and FEMA flood mapping at <a href="https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps">https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps</a>.

Our Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget allows us to continuing pursuing a number of significant projects:

Infrastructure – We have allocated additional monies in this last year's budget to address Wayland's Wharf storm degradation and erosion concerns as well as Borough sidewalk issues. First phases for both projects are now complete. The completion of Wayland's Wharf fencing is currently scheduled for after Labor Day. Slate sidewalk repairs associated with Borough trees will also continue during this fiscal year.

Stormwater Management – We continue to address issues related to flooding in two specific areas, outflows at Cross Street and Northwest Street, and flooding at Hyde, Orchard and Meadow. I am meeting with State officials and Stakeholders on storm challenges for damage to Borough and private properties and will continue working to obtain Federal and State DOT grants to address these issues.

Borough Streets - After Labor Day Pearl Steet and Diving Street will be repaved.

For our new residents, we live in a small village, surrounded by water on three sides, with small streets and numerous historic sidewalks, all of which provide us with a unique charm that is so

much a part of its character. As homeowners, renters, and business owners we have an obligation to understand our Ordinances and exhibit common sense in adhering to them.

I want to reiterate that property owners and residents must adhere to our Borough Ordinances and their requirements:

Sidewalks: Owners are responsibility for tripping hazards on, and condition of, their sidewalks

Dogs: Leashing and dog waste removal: The Burgesses will be citing all dog owners for violating our leash ordinance when observed. Additionally, individuals should report all off-leash observed occurrences to the Stonington Animal Control officers at 860 599 4411 (Ext 0). They are very much desiring that important information.

Trees and Shrubs: Maintenance over sidewalks and roads.

Parking: Obeying all yellow curb lines for owners and their contractors. Cones on Borough streets, to reserve personal parking spaces, **are strictly prohibited**.

Snow: Adhering to posted rules and regulations. Our Street Crew (Sue and Emerson) work diligently to ensure the quality and safety of our streets. It is critical that we all work together to assist them. As property owners and individuals that employ contractors we are all required to keep our streets and sidewalks clear. Please do not throw/blow snow from sidewalks and driveways into the street.

Borough Property: Applications for temporary use of Streets or other Borough Property for Construction Dumpsters and Events.

Our local SEAT Hop stops in the Borough and the immediate area (Wad Square, Stonington Como, and Town Hall). I encourage all residents to consider its use for local travel along the Rte.27 and the Rte.1 corridor from Mystic to Pawcatuck. Stone Ridge, Masonicare, and Hartford Healthcare are now available as requested pickup and drop-off locations for Hop service.

Please report any suspicious activity and parking violations to Stonington Police at 860-599-4411 (Ext 0 not 911). We are shortly installing enhanced camera capabilities and speed deterrence measures and devices with the Town Police Department and Police Commission, and we have included additional allocations in our current 2025-2026 budget.

Issues related to Town Trash Collection and Trash containers have abated as we have reverted to status quo options alongside our new collection system. We will continue to evaluate any issues related to execution as they arise.

Although we have problems related to storms and sea-level rise, all in all, we are in excellent financial shape and the Burgesses, and I, will continue to listen to constituent concerns and the ways to address them.