

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
October 20, 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 5 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Boulder, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes of the monthly meeting of September 15, 2025, were approved.

ADD TO AGENDA

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to add Historic Stonington request to sponsor the “Let’s Build It” event and add new administrator to QuickBooks Online under New Business, was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

Event application Christmas Stroll

Bruce MacKinnon Appointment Request Email for Harbor Management

Paul Collette P&Z Board Resignation Email

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period September 15, 2025, through October 17, 2025, totaled \$112,543.09. Large bills of note were to Evergreen Landscaping for sidewalks, Stonington Ambulance Corps and Stonington Free Library for annual donations, and Westerly Ambulance Corps for new quarterly dispatch service and Ken Braza for up front beginning of Phase Two. I&E for July 2025 through June 30, 2026, shows total income to date of \$1,422,986.46; and net income to date of \$702,357.49.

Now that all the property taxes have been received as well as funding from the Town for streets, we have invested our spare cash as follows:

Cash 300K - Money Market Account.

CDs 400K (3 CDs maturing every three months)
US Treasuries 800K (7 positions that mature over the next two years. 200K matures this month). Total 1.5MM as of Oct 15, 2025

WARDEN'S REPORT

Met with First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough on shared local items of interest.
Attended First Selectman Staff Meeting
Attended September SECOG Meeting
Attended September SEAT Board Meeting
Met with Burgesses, COMO and SVIA on Point Garbage Disposal and Parking/Traffic at the Point.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Scheffers)

Conducted Brush Pickup and Park Mowing and Maintenance
Planted grass at Wad Square
Continued Street Cleaning
Planted new grass Cheseboro Lane and Meadow Ave.
Repositioned Parking wheel stops at Point
Completed Pearl, Diving, and repairs to Water Street paving.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD RESPONDED TO 7 ALARMS IN SEPTEMBER 2025, THEY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) 9-5-25 9:40am ODOR OF PROPANE GAS 70 NOYES AVE. L.P. (stove, accidental)
- 2) 9-15-25 3:37pm SHED FIRE 173 WAMPHASSUC PT. (woodchipper truck)
- 3) 9-23-25 10:16am FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 101 MAIN ST. CONDOS (alarm tech)
- 4) 9-24-25 10:00pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 194 WATER ST. 2nd FLOOR (faulty detector)
- 5) 9-25-25 1:02pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 7 BRADLEY ST. (faulty detector)
- 6) 9-27-25 2:22pm CO DETECTOR ACTIVATION 214 N. WATER ST. (metered house, cleaned detector, all ok)
- 7) 9-29-25 6:52pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 4 PEARL ST. (burnt food, pork chops)

I am working on new speed signs. There are people parking in front of Allegra's house on Water Street, which is illegal, and I am requesting yellow paint on the curb.

Burgess Barnes asked about the camera suggested to the pedestrian bridge. She also has information on a solution that can be used to remove spray paint. We can see if graffiti is repeated, we could consider a camera.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

I met with Kevin Mucha from Bartlett, and they will be providing the following services in the coming days/weeks:

- Planting a kousa on Broad Street and a Sweetgum on Cliff Street.
- Pruning the trees on the northwestern corner of Gold/Pearl Streets
- Submitting a report regarding a pear tree in front of 35 Main St.
- Writing a report regarding a pear tree in front of 23 Elm St.
- Pruning the tree on the corner of Elm/Cliff Streets (next to the Hartmann residence.)

I heard from Brian Wendler of the Hollycroft Foundation that they have run into financial difficulties, and it sounds as though they will be moving their sculptures to a new sculpture garden at the Lyman Allyn Museum in New London. I will provide more information on this as I receive it.

In accordance with the tree policy, Ellen Wightman is arranging for the planting of a dogwood tree (hopefully, within the new few weeks) across from her home on Main Street. This tree will replace the tree she had requested to have removed.

The Beck's and Pandolfi's have requested that the slipping hazard and smelly fruit from the gingko tree in front of their houses on Water Street be eliminated by cutting it down.

There needs to be clarification of whether Burgess Barnes or the State of Connecticut is the ultimate authority on whether a tree comes down or not. Burgess Barnes believes that the Tree Ordinance is to be followed.

Burgess Barnes will talk with our attorney for some clarification. Burgess Barnes will ask the Pandolfi's to follow the procedure of the Tree Ordinance. Warden Schefers will contact the Pandolfi's and cc Burgess Barnes.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Firehouse:

Nothing to report

Borough Hall:

The generator developed a leak, possibly antifreeze, which was repaired by AC/DC. The furnace was cleaned.

Based on the consensus of the board and audience, I am beginning to develop a plan to improve interior lighting for brighter illumination. In addition, I will explore options for cooling the building during the summer months, including the use of fans, window units, or split systems.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

Sanitation

Trash at the point. We met with the COMO and SVIA. The weekly trash collection at the point with one bin for trash and one for recycling appears to be working well. We will increase frequency if needed. We agreed that the Borough would assume the costs for collection at the Point on an ongoing basis.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Viaduct Update

We did put banners on the website with what is going on. Chief and I are suggesting a sliding gate at the railroad crossing, that they be reinforced and the curbing be removed. We would have access to trip and open and close the gates.

On the issue of the viaduct bridge, Warden has not been as involved because Town Engineer has been working with DOT. We were supposed to get revised designs the middle of October but have not seen them yet. When they are presented, we will update the website.

Maplewood and Orchard – we were unable to remove debris from the area. It will be done in the next couple of months. The town will potentially work with us. DEEP is willing to waive the permitting.

This should be on the agenda from here on.

NEW BUSINESS

Event application – SVIA Christmas Stroll

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the application made by Jaime Lewis on behalf of SVIA to use Wad Square (tree lighting and gathering on steps of Library and Water Street (closed down from High Street to Cannon Square for “strolling” shops and possible small food truck/trailer with coffee, etc. placed on Water Street(TBD)) for the Annual Borough Stroll, tree lighting on Wad Square, carols on the Library steps, Santa appearance and strolling along Water Street, including a horse and carriage ride up and down Water Street on Dec 5, 2025 for 5:30 pm to 8 pm., was approved.

Sue will extend the time that the Borough Hall restrooms hours be open during the Stroll.

Harbor Commission Appointment

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Bowdler to reappoint Bruce MacKinnon to the Stonington Harbor Management Commission, was approved.

Borough/Homeland Security Agreement Authorization

Warden Schefers signed the document and Clerk/Treasurer stamped it.

Request from Historic Stonington

On a motion for Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes to donate \$250 towards the Lego event, passed by majority. Burgess Bowdler abstained.

Add new administrator to QuickBooks Online

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to add Aubrey O’Neil as a new administrator to QuickBooks Desktop Payroll, was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Sibby Lynch of Water Street thinks we should listen to Burgess Barnes more closely as regards to the ginkgo trees and it is getting worse.

Resident Al Razzano of Main Street thanked the Board for moving Public Comment to follow New Business. There was nothing on the website this month regarding this month’s meeting and agenda. Warden replied that it was posted on the Borough Hall, at the bottom of the footbridge, and at Tom’s News. We had a personnel change this month and difficulty with passwords. Al Razzano feels it best if the website is the number one to communicate to the residents. Warden said first would be to clean it up and update it.

Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 School St. thinks it is great that the public is allowed to be heard. I appreciate the road repairs. They came out great. Glad to hear that the public restrooms are working. Regarding the footbridge, post a sign that reads “these premises under surveillance.”

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

We have some resumes. We must interview, in person is better. Warden will check with the applicants for their availability. Burgess Barnes, Nicholas and Warden will be interviewing. The conversation on who to hire must be done in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 8:16 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
November 8, 2025