

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
November 17, 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, Kevin Rogers, Kevin Bowdler, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Amanda Barnes was absent. Approximately 8 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the monthly meeting of October 20, 2025, were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

Request for Our Lady of Fatima procession 5/17/2026.

Letter from Ed Smith re. Water St. traffic/pedestrian safety at Lighthouse crossing. Additional signage will be put up.

Proof of liability for park sculptures. They will be up for another six months.

Application for Junior Firefighter.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period October 18, 2025, through November 14, 2025, totaled \$199,120.08. Large bills of note were to Edward French for paving, Kevin Braza Construction, O'Connor Davies and Superior Sewer & Drain. I&E for July 2025 through June 30, 2026, shows total income to date of \$1,555,776; and net income to date of \$777,339.00.

After paying for sidewalks and Main St. there is \$100,000 left in Infrastructure. Infrastructure balance is \$1,300,000.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Met with First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough on shared local items of interest.

Attended First Selectman November Staff Meeting.

Attended October SECOG Meeting.

Met with Danielle and Town Engineer Chris Greenhall on Viaduct Letter and Chief Hoadley on RR Crossing.
Finished Wayland's Wharf Railings.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Schefers)

Conducted Brush Pickup and Park Mowing and Maintenance
Purchased Lighting for Point Flagpole
Continued sidewalk repair on Main Street
Prepared Trucks and Equipment for Winter
Purchased parking wheel stops for Point to relocate some existing to Wayland's Wharf.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD RESPONDED TO 22 ALARMS IN OCTOBER 2025 (11 OF WHICH WERE IN THE BOROUGH),

THEY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) 10-2-25 10:17pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 13 ELM ST. (nothing found, broke glass to enter)
- 2) 10-4-25 10:41am MEDICAL ASSIST WITH SAC, WAYLANDS WHARF (unconscious person)
- 3) 10-4-25 8:08pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION DOG WATCH CAFE (nothing found)
- 4) 10-8-25 2:27pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 20 NORTH ST. WAMP. PT. (nothing found)
- 5) 10-8-25 3:16pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 20 NORTH ST. WAMP. PT. (nothing found, again)
- 6) 10-10-25 10:17am FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 28 CUTLER ST. (Fire drill @ COMO)
- 7) 10-11-25 11:42am MVA ROUTE 1 @ ELM ST. (1 injury to hospital)
- 8) 10-13-25 1:36pm WATER INCIDENT 40 SALT ACRES RD. (windsurfer struggling in water due to high winds, Watch Hill Fire, PFD & Ston PD boats all responded, 1 person to hospital)
- 9) 10-13-25 5:31pm TREE ON WIRES IFO 206 FLANDERS RD. (EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 10) 10-17-25 9:17am FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 28 CUTLER ST. (Como, accidental)
- 11) 10-18-25 12:49pm MUTUAL AID TO WEQ. FD (tree down in rd. IFO 435 N Main St.)
- 12) 10-19-25 4:43pm MEDICAL ASSIST WITH SAC, STON. COMMONS (lift assist)
- 13) 10-20-25 1:51pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 166 BRIAR PATCH RD. (nothing found)
- 14) 10-22-25 9:10pm CO DETECTOR ACTIVATION 123 WATER ST. (low battery)
- 15) 10-25-25 6:24pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 86 COLLINS RD. (burnt eggs)
- 16) 10-25-25 8:21pm UNATTENDED FIRE PIT 7 WATER ST. (extinguished fire)
- 17) 10-26-25 6:51am FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 117 WATER ST. (wax machine in salon)

- 18) 10-27-25 10:55am FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 23 BAYVIEW AVE. (faulty smoke CO detector)
- 19) 10-28-25 3:04pm DINGHY IN DISTRESS OFF LANGWORTHY AVE. LP (Watch Hill Fire, PFD & Ston. PD boats all responded, lost oars in high winds, no injuries)
- 20) 10-30-25 8:18pm FIRE ALARM ACTIVATION 221 WAMPASSUC PT. RD. (burnt lamb)
- 21) 10-31-25 9:38am PROPANE TANK TIPPED OVER 44 MAIN ST. (high winds)
- 22) 10-31-25 10:28am WIRES DOWN IFO 94 WATER ST. (fiber optic)

Teresa Hersh reported for Chief Hoadley and added that with the coming winter there will be more CO2 reports and chimney fires.

Interviews for the Office Manager are in process. The Fire Chief Search Committee has met and is moving forward.

Burgess Bowdler asked that the search for Fire Chief has begun and the roles have been discussed as well as the breakdown of responsibilities. The search posting will be in February 2026.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

- A Kousa has been planted on the eastern end of Broad Street replacing the two trees which had been removed from the strip of grass there. Because of the small amount of space in that area, one tree was planted rather than two.
- A Sweet Gum has been planted on Cliff Street in place of a dead tree that was removed.
- the arrival of the tree that Ellen Wightman purchased to replace the tree she requested be removed across from her home on Main Street has happened. Bartlett has planted the tree that has been delivered.
- The 3 trees in front of 6 Broad Street were pruned.
- The trees on the corner of Gold Street and Pearl Street were pruned.
- Bartlett has been unable to prune the tree in front of Chuck Hartmann's house because of vehicles in the way. I informed Bartlett that if they provide a date in advance, we can come off the area. Stay tuned.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Firehouse:

Nothing to report.

Borough Hall:

Nothing to report

Flagpole: The Warden has come up with a solution for the unlit flagpole at the point. The flagpole company to replace the ball at the top with a solar light that faces down. Bravo and thank you, Warden!

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Viaduct Update

State DOT was supposed to get back to us by October 15th. Still not received. Danielle Chesebrough wrote the DOT a letter saying that it would have been nice if they had responded with a proposal because she has been involved for six years and will be leaving. She got a letter back from DOT that they were not ready as yet.

Chief and Warden sat down and defined what they would like to see at the Railroad crossing. They would like to see the removal of structure like curbs and put two sliding gates at the crossing, suggested they redo the grading and put rubber matting at the tracks. We will go to Amtrak with this proposal.

Stormwater Update - Maplewood and Orchard – Sue got permission to go into Wendy's Orchard Inn back yard. Sue will go in and clean out the drainage canal with a backhoe. Sue is working with the Town.

NEW BUSINESS

Fatima Procession Request Approval

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Warden Schefers, the application made by Rev. Dennis Perkins of St. Michael Church, Norwich Roman Catholic Diocese, Corp., to use Borough Streets for Our Lady of Fatima Feast Procession on Sunday, May 17, 2026, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, was approved.

Junior Firefighter Application

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the application by Landon Rose to be a junior firefighter with the Stonington Borough Junior Firefighters, was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Al Razzano of Main Street said the sidewalks look great.

Resident Stuart Malcolm of 8 Denison Avenue mentioned that we have tons of boys and girls playing in the streets and riding bikes. He loves to see it but is there a law that says we must have 20 mph speed limit? Could we reduce to 15 mph?

There is an 8 Denison Avenue in Mystic, also. Mail is easily misdelivered. Could we rename the street?

Warden Schefers asked Burgess Nicholas to reapply to the police for removable cushions.

Resident Tom of Hancox St. suggests handing out speeding tickets. We need more police presence in the Borough.

Resident Alan Vaskas of 102 Water Street suggested putting on the viaduct heading into the Borough a "Reduce Speed Sign Ahead – 20 mph"

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

We have hired a new Business Manager who will be starting mid-December.

We need to recruit more Planning and Zoning members and Board of Appeals members.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, adjournment of the meeting at 7:45 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman

December 4, 2025