

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
July 21, 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, Amanda Barnes, Kevin Bowdler, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Approximately 17 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Warden Schefers, the minutes of the monthly meeting of June 16, 2025, were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

Thank you Letter from Stonington Free Library
Event application — Kelley's Place Battle of Stonington UK Race
Mystic Outdoor Art Festival looking for Sponsorships

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

Ran over budget for 2025 May election.

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT; ARPA UPDATE

Bills for the period June 17, 2025, through July 17, 2025, totaled \$90,462.75. Large bills of note were to Town of Stonington for bills for the May 2025 election. I&E for July 2024 through June 30, 2025, shows total income to date of -\$21,549.65; and net income to date of -\$14,698.05.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Met with First Selectman Danielle Chesbrough on shared local items of interest.
Attended June SECOG Meeting.
Attended June SEAT Board Meeting.
Met with COMO, SVIA, and Amy on July 4th Weekend Public Safety and Sanitation issues.
Met with Sidewalk Contractor to discuss additional sidewalk repairs on Main Street.
Attended Special SEAT Board Meeting.
Completed approved 2024-2025 FY Budget Transfers.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Schefers)

Conducted Brush Pickup and Park Mowing and Maintenance
Initiated Spring/Summer Painting.
Continued Street Cleaning

Graded Point and Wayland's Wharf Parking Lots
Received Fine from 50 Main Street Sidewalk violation

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to 8 Alarms (two were in the Borough) in June 2025, they were as follows:

- 1) 6-11-25 3:35pm Fire Alarm Activation, 530 Stonington Rd. (Nothing found)
- 2) 6-17-25 4:45pm Medical assist with SAC, 32 Water St., Ston. Commons (lift assist)
- 3) 6-20-25 6:39pm MVA Rt. 1 @ N. Main St., (no injuries to hospital)
- 4) 6-23-25 10:23am Wires down IFO 18 Lamberts Lane (power lines down EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 5) 6-24-25 7:36pm Medical assist with SAC, 30 Coveside Lane (lift assist)
- 6) 6-25-25 10:47am Wires down N. Water St. @ Oak Dr. (utility wire)
- 7) 6-26-25 8:05pm Medical assist with Sac 32 Water St. dinghy dock (medical off a boat)
- 8) 6-29-25 3:59am CO Alarm Activation 229 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd. (elevated readings in garage)

I had been asked at the June 2025 meeting to say how many EMS calls were had. From July 1, 2024, until June 30, 2025, there were 124 calls, 14 of which were EMS, in which they needed assist from the Fire Department. The majority of those are during June, July and August.

June Police Incident Report (Nicholas)

On Thursday, the 24th, Michael and I will be meeting with Chief Del Grasso to discuss issues at the point and a speed cushion. There is now a process for requesting speed cushions including detailing the location and notifying neighbors. The Flock cameras will be installed over the next few weeks.

Big concern for 4th of July weekend was that emergency vehicles on a could not get in the point because of the parking that was out of control and every which way. We hired a police person to direct traffic and tell folks when the parking lot is full on Saturday, no need on Sunday since the weather was not conducive to beach goers.

There have been lots of complaints of dogs off leash. I had to issue a warning to a resident. I encourage everyone to keep their dogs on leash and there is a leash law.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

I have been working with a landscaper on the Front St circle. Waiting to hear back from him. Perhaps hydrangeas. And compiling a list of pruning to be done by Bartlett. Asking residents to contact me with pruning that they notice needs to be done on Borough trees.

Chris Curran has notified me that the work on the cannons will begin shortly.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Fire House

Curran Construction and 72 Degrees A/C and Heating are in full swing of the installation of the new a/c system. The interior wall units have been hung. The condensers will be hung soon. We

have confirmed the height with the town building inspector and have all the permissions required. The firefighters are thrilled with the progress.

I came across a volunteer firefighter cleaning up the flower bed in front of the bays of the firehouse. His name is Jonathan. I thanked him for his efforts. It is this spirit that makes our tiny town so special. I will be doing the remainder of the cleanup myself next week, closer to the Lobster Boil. I hope to see everyone there.

Borough Hall

Bubbled paint has surfaced near the hand dryer and behind the toilet. Julia Leeming and I met and decided to bring Karl from Yankee Remodeler back for a fix. Karl is planning to add a 0.40" thick sheet of vinyl to the three walls. It will be in a similar color and will alleviate any future concerns of water splashing and scratches. EB and hospitals use this product. We are awaiting an estimate and will make our final decision then. We will do this project in the fall so we do not interrupt the open hours of the bathroom.

Wayland's Wharf

The old ladder at Wayland's Wharf needed replacement. We installed a 4-rung ladder. It then came to our attention that a 7-rung ladder was needed, so we ordered that. Warden Michael, Chris Curran and I met and decided to keep the 4-rung ladder but move it to the shallower side of the dock and put the 7-rung ladder in the deeper area. Two ladders are safer than one. As a reminder to the public, there is NO lifeguard on duty. Swim at your own risk.

CT Main Street Workshop

I attended the workshop held on June 21st. It was well attended, and the consultants ran a very good meeting. They focused on what the group felt were the issues of our business district on Water Street mostly, but we did include other addresses as well. The group was broken into subcommittees and were asked to not only identify problems but come up with solutions. We will reconvene soon for our second session. It was a very productive session.

Lighthouse Liaison

I have not reported on the Lighthouse since the previous Warden but will begin again next month.

Burgess Bowdler asked that the mold on the roof of Wayland's Wharf.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

Sanitation

I did a trash enforcement round at 9 pm on July 9th, the week after July 4th weekend. I drove every street in the Borough and there was not one yellow bag out on the curb. That has never occurred in the past two years!

Composting bins

Compost bins and bags are now available. The program is being run by a company by the name of Black Earth. There is a weekly or bi-weekly or monthly pickup fee (on Mondays) or the bags can be taken to the transfer station by residents and put in the composting unit. Residents can sign up by visiting Solid Waste department at Stonington Town Hall and they can buy the bags there.

Trash at the Point

There have been complaints about trash at the Point, particularly inside the porta-loos. Michael had a meeting with the SVIA and the COMO and agreed to place some small trash bins with yellow bags inside them. The COMO would empty them each day. Another option we could consider is placing a small dumpster at the Point for the summer and see how it goes. Will it become a dumping ground for more trash or have people's behaviors changed with the new large trash bins? The Town has a special deal with Cassella. We would have a two-yard dumpster at the point and have it emptied twice a week for \$144 per month. Let's discuss. The SVIA is proposing to lock the porta loos when the beach is not attended by the lifeguards. Thoughts?

Since my report was written the COMO has contracted with Willimantic Waste for a dumpster at the Point.

Utilities

We discussed last month making a trial of two solar lights that would cost us about \$10,000. A few dark spots do have Utility poles in the center of the block, so we do have the option to add an Eversource streetlamp to those poles if we saw fit.

I have reviewed the various options recommended by the solar light company and there are three possibilities where there is not a utility pole in the center of the block. In all cases, I would recommend that if we do go ahead, we should place the poles on the east side of the street which gets more sunlight in winter.

The options are:



Water St between Union and Harmony.



Water St between High and Pearl.



Main St between Union and Church.

In conclusion, the Board decided to wait on placing lighting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 School Street expressed concern that if someone is placed at the Point to direct cars out of the Point if there are no parking spots, what will happen? Will they be directed out of the parking lot and into the neighborhoods SOTC.

Lisa, cut and paste what Jesse gave me.

Resident Sorrell Sargent of 72 Main Street regarding the roof at Wayland's Wharf, I suggest you hire a professional due to possible damage. Also, she asked about which of the sidewalks will be repaired? Warden Schefers addressed this by saying the sidewalks on Water Street between High to Broad Sts. Have already been done. Next week, work on the sidewalk will begin on Main Street in front of Penny Duckham's house.

Resident Sandy Fromson of 8 Stonington Commons had questions about trees, replacements, and the posting of trees to be cut down. Burgess Barnes responded to her that there is a Tree policy available on the Borough website.

Resident Jean Fiore of Cannon Square commented that she witnessed an older citizen having difficulty climbing onto the gazebo at Wayland's Wharf? The concern for a railing should be brought up to SVIA.

Also, is it possible to do flags around Cannon Square, like the ones at Wadawanuck Square? This issue will be put on the August agenda.

Resident Al Razzano of 25 Main Street mentioned that he has some solar lights on his property that he invites the Board to look at. They are around 24" tall and give off adequate light.

Resident Stu Malcolm of 8 Denison Avenue mentioned a slipping hazard at Wayland's Wharf around the ladders. Tape or a piece of carpeting will be looked at.

Resident Rich Hanratty of 103 Main Street asks who is responsible for the two feet of weeds under the viaduct. Warden Schefers will ask Susan to look at it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PHGS Food Trucks Update

Warden Schefers was told by Howard that neighbors have been told of the two food truck events. In the future the PHGS will not allow food trucks at events. They will be asked to put that in their policy.

RV Ordinance

Burgess Rogers noted that an RV has been at the library parked overnight. We have an RV Ordinance. One of the Burgesses or the Warden will write a warning.

Maplewood Flooding

There will be a meeting next week with the Town of Stonington.

NEW BUSINESS

5K Battle of Stonington Race

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the application made by Kelley's Pace to use Wadawanuck Square, Mathews Street, Water Street, Omega St, Hancock Street and Diving Street for the Battle of Stonington 5K Road Race on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, from 5:45 pm to 7:30 pm, subject to proof of insurance, was approved.

Mystic Chamber sponsorship for Mystic Outdoor Festival

Denied.

Parking Stickers Discussion

Resident Jesse Diggs addressed the resident and non-resident difficulty in finding parking. He said perhaps we want to readdress the amount of time a car can stay in a parking spot, a lot of serious thought should be given to the issue, and I don't think there is an easy solution. Burgess Rogers said that every time the issue of Parking Stickers has come up in the past the consensus was to not adopt stickers.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
July 26, 2025