

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting ~ December 17, 2012

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Borough of Stonington Warden and Burgesses was called to order in Borough Hall at 7:31 PM by Warden Paul Burgess. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Kathryn Burchenal, Amy Nicholas, Howard Park, Edward McCreary, Robert Scala, and Clerk- Treasurer Brian Krajack.

Public Comment:

1. Public Access at Stonington Commons damaged by Storm Sandy:
 - a. Chris Errichetti, representing Stonington Commons, explained that the Public Access walk has been closed off due to damage sustained during Storm Sandy. Mr. Errichetti noted that design work for repairs is complete and currently out to bid.
 - i. The elevation of the walk will be raised approximately 1.5 feet, with the southerly portion of the walk moved further inland.
 - ii. Rip-rap, grouted solid down to the iron slag, will be placed to seaward of the walk, and will be boxed-out under the walk serving as its base.
 - iii. The walk surface will be stone dust with granite curbing on the seaward side and a granite cobblestone border on the inland side.
 - iv. The width of the walk will be 5 feet, minimum.
 - b. Burgess Nicholas asked about the timeframe for reopening the Public Access.
 - i. Mr. Errichetti explained that, while it depends on the weather, repairs will begin in mid to late March and should be complete in approximately two months' time. Mr. Errichetti noted that the walk will definitely be open for summer.
 - c. Burgess Burchenal asked if local firms will be doing the work.
 - i. Mr. Errichetti explained that the contractor will be local.

Approval of Minutes:

1. On a motion by Burgess Scala seconded by Burgess Nicholas, acceptance of the minutes from the Board Meeting held on November 19, 2012 was unanimously approved.

Administrative Assistant's Report (Perry):

1. Received tax collections for November: \$2,467
2. Received payment for sidewalk (Morse): \$800
3. Still awaiting payment for previously billed sidewalk (Patrick): \$800
4. Billed for sidewalk (Palmer/Klender): \$1,000
5. Turned over records and information to auditors for their off-site (due to construction) field work.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report (Krajack):

1. Prepared 'List of Offices to be Filled' form for filing with CT Secretary of State for 5/6/13 elections.

Review of Bills:

1. The 7/1/2012 through 12/14/2012 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Larger expenses were reviewed:
 - a. \$15,525: Harold Hefel Masonry- repair of Wall Street seawall damaged by Storm Sandy.
 - b. \$25,000: Hastedt Brothers Paving- return of funds received in lieu of bond.

Review of Profit/Loss Statement:

1. The 7/1/2012 through 12/14/2012 Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office.
 - a. Warden Burgess noted that line 1301 Contingency (budgeted at \$20,000) was over by \$21,209 due to cleanup and repairs as a result of Storm Sandy. A good portion of this should be reimbursed by FEMA, but perhaps not this year.

Correspondence:

1. Informational:
 - a. SCWA: Schedule of meetings for 2013.
 - b. Stonington Free Library: 2011-2012 Annual Report and 2012/2013 Budget Request.
 - c. Stonington Walk for ALS: save the date for 7/27/2013 walk and holiday greetings.
 - d. Town of Stonington Planning and Zoning: notice of Public Hearing on 1/15/2013 for zoning regulation amendment.
2. Requests:
 - a. None
3. Invitations/ Meetings:
 - a. CCM: Legislative Committee Meeting on 12/18/2012.
4. Other:
 - a. John C. O'Brien: letter regarding sidewalk at 176 Water Street.

Warden's Report:

1. Street Department Activities:
 - a. Leaf removal.
 - b. Re-graded Lee's Court and Waylands Wharf.
 - c. Cleaned storm catch basin at Omega Street Right of Way.
 - d. Graded new stone at Omega Street Right of Way.
 - e. Performed miscellaneous maintenance activities.
2. Monthly Report:
 - a. Participated in Borough Hall renovation progress meetings.
 - b. Entered into construction contracts with Hefel Masonry LLC (Wall Street Seawall) and Custom Masonry LLC (East Grand Street Seawall).
 - i. The East Grand Street wall has started and should be complete in the next couple of weeks.
 - ii. The foundation for the Wall Street wall was poured last Thursday.
 - iii. Burgess Burchenal asked whether repairs were being coordinated with repairs on the Avalonia property. Warden Burgess indicated that repairs are being coordinated, but noted that he is not sure of the extent of repairs on the Avalonia property or if the same contractor will be used.

- c. Inspected granite curb/sidewalk project at 45 Water Street.
- d. FEMA Sandy meeting scheduled for December 20, 2012.

Fire and Emergency Management: (Burgess Nicholas):

1. During the month of November 2012 there were seventeen (17) incidences of a routine nature. Of note:
 - a. A structure fire on Hyde Street.
 - b. A lift assist.
 - c. A Lifestar landing at Deans Mill School.
 - d. A chimney fire.
 - e. An electrical fire.
 - f. Odor of propane.
2. Emergency Management operations consisted of continued monitoring of recovery from the storm's impact.
3. Fire Marshal's Report for the period from 11/23/2012 to 12/17/2012:
 - a. 11/23/2012: Cutler Street- fire hazard problem with brush. Unfortunately there is no code to cover the problem.
 - b. 11/23/2012: Velvet Mill- inspect bakery ovens.
 - c. 11/24/2012: 19 Lambert Lane- gas inspection.
 - d. 11/26/2012: Velvet Mill- inspect new corridor.
 - e. 11/28/2012: Velvet Mill- inspect new sprinkler heads as part of replacement program.
 - f. 11/30/2012: 291 Elm Street- inspection of new underground tank.
 - g. 12/12/2012: Stonington Pizza- liquor license inspection.
 - h. 12/13/2012: 15-17 East Grand Street- gas inspection.
 - i. 12/14/2012: 17 East Grand Street- re-inspection, passed.
 - j. 12/14/2012: 37 Langworthy Road- gas inspection.
 - k. 12/14/2012: 3 Hyde Street- review problem regarding abandoned tank.
 - l. 12/17/2012: 18 Elm Street- carbon monoxide incident. Six people sent to hospital to check for carbon monoxide poisoning.
 - i. Warden Burgess noted that the Fire Department's new text messaging service is up and running, and was alerted of the call at 18 Elm Street through this service.

Parks, Trees, and Rights of Way (Burgess Park):

1. Parks:
 - a. Burgess Park reported that there were 18 truckloads of leaves and debris removed from Borough Parks this fall; the last loads were taken this week from La Grua Park, which does look good but needs reseeding.
 - b. Burgess Park has posted a Bradford Pear in La Grua Park which had a main section come down during Storm Sandy. It is leaning across the street, overhanging some electric wires, and last week Tuesday, the recycling truck knocked yet another branch off which fell on a car across the street. Roger and Sue removed the offending branch and cleaned up the debris. Burgess Park has posted this tree with the hope of replacing this tree with another Bradford Pear.
2. Trees:
 - a. Burgess Park has reluctantly posted another Bradford Pear on Main Street which had been damaged by the high winds of Storm Sandy. Burgess Park noted that its condition doesn't seem that bad, and if any members of the Board wish to change his mind, drive by and take a look.

- i. The tree is unsightly because of the missing limb and the owner of the house has expressed willingness to pay for its removal.
 - ii. Burgess Park recommends replacing this tree with a similar tree. Bradford Pears are good trees for this area in as much as they don't grow too tall and have a small root system. They do however shed branches at the main crotch usually before they have become too large say after 30 years, and do little damage when they fall.
 - b. Burgess Park has received two bids (Nick Reardon- \$800.00 per tree, Mike Christie- \$700.00 per tree) for removal of the trees on Temple Street which are growing on the top of the wall at the Johnstone property.
 - i. Mr. Johnstone was approached about sharing the cost of removal and he seemed willing, but has another tree removal service he wishes to have quote on the job.
 - c. The rest of the fir tree has been removed from Wadawanuck Square. The stump, as well as the other two stumps on the north side, have been ground out and covered with topsoil.
 - d. See discussion under 'Parks' above for posting of Bradford Pear in La Grua Park.
 - e. Burgess McCreary asked whether it would be appropriate to consider Gingko trees when selecting replacement trees.
 - i. Burgess Burchenal noted that, if considered, male trees would be more appropriate due to the unpleasant odor of the female Gingko.
 - ii. Burgess Park noted that, in the past, he has not given Gingko trees consideration as they are not indigenous. Burgess Park added that he is always open to suggestions.
- 3. Rights of Way:
 - a. Burgesses Park and Nicholas plan to walk the Rights of Way in January.

Sanitation, Utilities and Street Lights (Burgess McCreary):

- 1. Sanitation:
 - a. No special or detectable patterns of activity.
- 2. Utilities:
 - a. With storm calm, all quiet.

Public Buildings (Burgess Adair):

- 1. Borough Hall Renovation Project:
 - a. No activity to report.
- 4. Public Restrooms:
 - a. No activity to report.

Sidewalks (Burgess Scala):

- 1. 21 Diving Street sidewalk repairs have been completed.
- 2. Sent letter to John C. O'Brien regarding sidewalk at 176 Water Street.
 - a. Mr. O'Brien replied with a letter indicating that the members of the 176 Water Street Condominium Association believes the condition of the sidewalk is a result of uninhibited growth of the roots of trees owned by the Borough.
 - i. Burgess Scala noted that he would contact Mr. O'Brien to discuss.

Police, Public Affairs and Communications (Burgess Burchenal):

1. Police Report:
 - a. During the month of November 2012 there were forty-three (43) incidences of a routine nature, including seventeen (17) false alarms.
 - i. Burgess Burchenal noted that the police respond to every call, even the false alarms.
 - b. No issues of interest or concern about police matters in the Borough have been conveyed to Burgess Burchenal over the last month.
2. Borough Clock:
 - a. The clock is keeping time but the chimes are off by an hour. Gears have slipped and it seems to call for David Graf who does repair work. He lives in Maine and will not be able to visit until January 2013. An announcement about the chimes has been placed on the website.
3. Waldron Fund:
 - a. The Waldron Fund and Williams Fund have had a good season working together to meet the needs of those requesting aid. The Waldron Fund will certainly reach its spending goal this year, which was hard to achieve in the past despite outreach.
 - b. A joint Waldron/Williams informational postcard was mailed to each resident in the Borough and Administrative Assistant Perry, in the office, has already received calls from interested people. Instructions and forms to apply to each of the Funds are now on the website.
 - c. The Waldron Fund account is at Dime Bank. Burgess Burchenal renewed CDs keeping them staggered for renewal, while keeping enough cash in the checking account to cover annual expenditures. This is all in an attempt to capture the small differences in interest rates, which are still very, very low.
4. Communications:
 - a. As of Saturday, 15 December, the website homepage has had 41,944 hits since its debut in March.

Old Business:

1. None.

New Business:

1. Schedule of meetings for 2013:
 - a. On a motion by Warden Burgess, seconded by Burgess McCreary, the 2013 Board of Warden and Burgesses meeting schedule was established by unanimous approval as follows:
 - i. Regular Board Meetings will take place on third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM.
 - ii. If the third Monday is a holiday, the meeting will take place on Tuesday immediately following the Monday holiday at 7:30 PM.
2. Ordinance review:
 - a. This item will remain on the agenda for the January meeting. SBO-05 'Ordinance Establishing Parking Restrictions' will have to be re-passed, revised if desired by the Board, or left to expire if no action is taken by December 31, 2013.
3. Planning and Zoning member considerations::

- a. Warden Burgess noted that the terms of Betsy Carr and Don Vail expire in 2012, and Carol Martin remains inactive.
 - i. Burgess Adair asked, once a member's term expires, are they forced to retire if there are no replacements made.
 - ii. Warden Burgess indicated that they may continue to serve until replaced.

Other Business:

1. None.

Adjournment

1. On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:08 PM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Krafjack
Clerk- Treasurer