

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting ~ April 27, 2013

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Borough of Stonington Warden and Burgesses was called to order in Borough Hall at 9:45 AM by Warden Paul Burgess. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Kathryn Burchenal, Amy Nicholas, Howard Park, Robert Scala, and Clerk- Treasurer Brian Krafjack.

Public Comment:

1. None.

Approval of Minutes:

1. On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Park, acceptance of the minutes from the Board Meeting held on March 18, 2013 was unanimously approved.

Administrative Assistant's Report (Perry):

1. Received tax collections for March: \$250.
2. Received AT&T Telephone Property Tax: \$945.
3. Still awaiting payment for previously billed sidewalk (Patrick): \$800.00 – sent reminder, no response.
4. Coordinated with Clerk- Treasurer and Registrars for election preparations.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report (Krafjack):

1. Reviewed and responded to William's Fund requests.
2. Coordinated ballots for upcoming election with Administrative Assistant Perry, Registrars, Secretary of State, and Adkin's Printing.

Review of Bills:

1. The 3/19/13 through 4/18/13 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office.

Review of Profit/Loss Statement:

1. The 7/1/12 through 4/18/13 Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual Report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office.

Correspondence:

1. Informational:
 - a. Town of Stonington: Notice of Public Hearing on 5/7/13 for proposed revisions to Flood Hazard regulations.
 - b. Stonington Village Improvement Association (SVIA): Recommendation for Wadawanuck Square Christmas tree.
2. Requests:
 - a. Lady of Fatima Society: Procession request.
 - b. Stonington Community Center (COMO): Letter of request for Village Fair.
3. Invitations/ Meetings:
 - a. SWCA: Notice of meeting on 4/4/13.

4. Other:
 - a. David Williams: Response to Burgess Scala sidewalk letter.
 - i. Burgess Scala said he feels the Borough needs a better policy for establishing where the Borough's responsibility lies with respect to roots of Borough trees causing damage to sidewalks for which property owners are responsible.
 - ii. Burgess Scala asked that this topic be put on the agenda for the next regular Board Meeting.

Warden's Report:

1. Street Department Activities:
 - a. Street cleaning.
 - b. Completed re-grading activities at The Point.
 - c. Install stone at Omega Street ROW and at Waylands Wharf (Storm Sandy restoration).
 - d. Brush removal at Parks.
2. Monthly Report:
 - a. Participated in Borough Hall renovation progress meetings.
 - b. Inspection of Wall Street seawall repair.
 - c. Prepared final Budget.

Fire and Emergency Management: (Burgess Nicholas):

1. Fire Marshal's Report for the period from 3/18/2013 to 4/23/2013:
 - a. 3/18/13- Borough Hall fire alarm review
 - b. 3/21/13- Quana Duck Road gas inspection
 - c. 3/29/13- 507 Stonington Road gas inspection
 - d. 4/4/13- Velvet Mill meeting regarding additional renovation
 - e. 4/8/13- Velvet Mill plan review for Chamber of Commerce Vision and liquor license
 - f. 4/9/13- Stonington Commons problem with sprinkler system
 - g. 4/11/13- 23 Gold Street inspection
 - h. 4/12/13- Stonington Commons full building inspection
 - i. 4/17/13- 14 Main Street propane tank inspection
 - j. 4/19/13- Borough Hall full test of new fire alarm system
 - k. 4/23/13- 70 and 72 Water Street alarm inspection of new system at NESS

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

1. Parks:
 - a. Getting ready for major mowing.
2. Trees:
 - a. Removal of 2 trees on top of the wall at Temple Street is complete and the invoice has been received.
3. Rights of Way:
 - a. No activity to report.

Sanitation, Utilities, and Street Lights (Position Vacant):

1. Sanitation:
 - a. No activity to report.
2. Utilities:

- a. No activity to report.

Public Buildings (Burgess Adair):

1. Borough Hall Renovation Project:
 - a. With a few minor adjustments to meet the building inspector's request (such as signage and motion sensor light switches in the upper elevator lobby), the work on the Borough Hall improvement and upgrade project has finally been completed.
 - b. Burgess Adair is looking into repainting the white upper moldings under the roof, but that will be a separate project.
 - c. Burgess Adair noted that, after a long and sometimes difficult project of this magnitude, a debt of gratitude should be expressed to Warden Burgess, Clerk- Treasurer Krafjack, Peter Springsteel, architect, and Lim Levasseur of W.R. Allen and Co. They were the ones who knew what they were doing and did this job carefully and well.

Sidewalks (Burgess Scala):

1. A temporary repair has been made at 77 Main Street to fix a tripping hazard; the work was accomplished by the homeowner.
2. The telephone pole damaged during Hurricane Sandy by the Velvet Mill on Bayview Avenue has yet to be repaired. It appears that Comcast may be holding up the repair since their wires seem to be the only wires left on the damaged pole.

Police, Public Affairs, and Communications (Burgess Burchenal):

1. Police Report:
 - a. During the month of March 2013 there were thirty-three (33) incidences in the police report for the Borough including nine medical assists, four 911/fire/alarm/false alarm calls, two animal control calls, one pistol permit background check, and seven auto/parking complaints.
 - b. No issues of interest or concern about police matters in the Borough have been conveyed to the Borough by the Police Department.
2. Borough Clock:
 - a. The clock is running well.
3. Website/ Communications:
 - a. All is well.
4. Waldron Fund:
 - a. The Fund has had a successful season (October – April). A year-end report was submitted at the Annual Meeting.
5. Events:
 - a. The high season has begun for organizations to submit permission forms for holding events on Borough roads and property. Over the last two years the requirements for holding events has become more complicated, mostly due to insurance coverage and the increased number of events held that necessitated a more formal request system. Barbara Perry and Burgess Burchenal will continue to refine the protocol so it is user friendly.
6. Signs/ Motorcycles:
 - a. A sign has been posted on the Town side of the viaduct to advise motorcyclists to "Ride Safe Ride Quiet".

- i. By Connecticut state regulation, motorcycles manufactured on or after January 1, 1979 cannot exceed a noise level of 84 dB when traveling more than 35 mph on a paved street or highway, or 80 dB when traveling more slowly.
 - ii. A stationary motorcycle cannot exceed 80 dB on a paved road (Conn. Agency Regs. § 14-80a-4a (d)).
- b. Stonington does not have the equipment to measure the decibel level of vehicles.

Old Business:

1. Consider Christmas tree replacement:
 - a. Borough resident Kevin Bowdler, representing the Stonington Village Improvement Association (SVIA), recapped a letter submitted to the Board:
 - i. The lighting of the Christmas tree in Wadawanuck Square during the Christmas Stroll is an important tradition and one of the Borough's most anticipated public events.
 - ii. If a live tree is to be planted in the Square, arborist Brad Painter suggests planting a 14 to 16 foot Fraser Fir to be kept sheared with a maximum height of 20 feet.
 - iii. The cost of planting such a tree would be \$2,500. Compared to the costs of installing a cut 20 foot tree in the Square every season, the break-even analysis suggests a 6-year term.
 - iv. An unscientific sampling of Borough residents suggests that a live fir tree kept to a height of 20 feet would be visually appealing in the Square, and would be far better than a cut tree serving as the Borough Christmas tree.
 - b. Burgess Park concurred with Mr. Bowdler that a planted tree would be best. However, Burgess Park said that he likes the openness of the Square since the old fir tree damaged during Hurricane Sandy had been removed.
 - i. Burgess Park stated it was a question of whether the open space for 8 months of the year is better than the joy provided by having a beautifully decorated Christmas tree for 4 months of the year.
 - c. Burgess Park concurred with Mr. Painter's assessment that a Fraser Fir is the proper species for the location and purpose of the proposed tree.
 - d. Burgess Burchenal said that she agrees that the Christmas tree is an important Borough tradition, noting that some people prefer hidden views experienced by moving through and around trees.
 - e. Burgess Adair asked how high a Fraser Fir might grow if not trimmed. Burgess Park explained the tree could grow upwards of 40 feet.
 - i. Mr. Bowdler noted that the old Borough Christmas tree grew to 70 feet before it was damaged by Hurricane Sandy.
 - f. On a motion by Burgess Park, seconded by Burgess Scala, the planting of a 14 to 16 foot Fraser Fir, to replace the Borough Christmas tree damaged by Storm Sandy in Wadawanuck Square, and to be kept sheared with a maximum height of 20 feet, was unanimously approved.
2. Consider Lady of Fatima request:
 - a. On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Burchenal, the Our Lady of Fatima Society Application for Use of Stonington Borough Property Including Streets, for June 1st and 2nd, 2013 was unanimously approved.

New Business- Consider revisions to Borough Ordinance SBO-12 Salaries:

1. On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Adair, revision to Borough Ordinance SBO-12 Salaries, as documented below, was unanimously approved.

SBO-12 SALARIES

1. The Warden shall receive \$10,000 per year, each Burgess shall receive \$600 per year, the Clerk-Treasurer shall receive \$2,500 per year, the Tax Collector shall receive \$600 per year, the Assessor shall receive \$600 per year, and the Street Commissioner shall receive \$5,000 per year, to be paid monthly.

New Business- Consider Winton food stand proposal at The Point:

1. Robert and Cynthia Winton stated that the food stand (hot dog cart) would be operated in the same location at The Point as last year, in the northeast corner of the parking lot. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 AM to no later than 4 PM.
2. Burgess Park noted that while he voted against the Winton's operation of a hot dog cart last year, in retrospect the Winton's operation was very unobtrusive, and the area surrounding the operation was kept very clean. Burgess Park added that the Wintons kept up their end of the bargain.
3. On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Park, Robert and Cynthia Winton's Application for Use of Stonington Borough Property Including Streets, for operation of a hot dog cart at The Point from May 24th through September 8th, 2013 during the hours of 11 AM to 4 PM, was unanimously approved.

Other Business:

1. None

Adjournment:

1. On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 10:09 AM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Krafjack
Clerk- Treasurer