

**Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
October 16, 2017  
MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at Borough Hall at 7:30 p.m. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Amanda Barnes, Shaun Mastroianni, Amy Nicholas, Karen von Ruffer-Hills, and Robert Scala.

The Warden noted the passing of Eleanor Perry, mother of Borough Administrative Assistant Barbara Perry, and long-time resident of the Borough. Eleanor and her late husband, Andrew Perry, are fondly remembered by many Borough residents.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Karen von Ruffer-Hills, the minutes from the Special Meeting held on September 28 were unanimously approved.

**3. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

The transfer of the parcel of land at 17 Temple Street has been finalized and a check for \$6,300 received.

Received September tax collections of \$10,657.59

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Peyton Horne: Appeal of denial of her request to remove linden tree.
- Candace Howes: Letter against the removal of Linden Tree at 75 Main Street
- Candace Howes: Email criticizing P&Z Commission's failure to follow proper procedure regarding the COMO tennis courts project.
- Sarah Blair: email critical of P&Z Commission over COMO tennis courts
- Rebekah Kepple and Morgan King: Letter against the removal of Linden Tree at 75 Main Street
- Richard Larkin, Sarah Blair, Charles Clark: emails opposing removal of linden tree at 75 Main Street.
- Julia Leeming: email opposing removal of linden tree at 75 Main Street

**5. REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER--- None**

**6. REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bills paid September 28 through October 11, 2017 totaled \$41,936.

Net income as of October 11, 2017 is \$607,372

**7. WARDEN'S REPORT**

Presented potential projects (e.g., cannon carriage wheels replacement) to SVIA board. The Borough clock timer has been adjusted for the fall lighting schedule.

## **8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

### **a. STREETS (Callahan)**

1. Started work on Summit and Bayview Streets crosswalks.
2. Completed paving on Front Street.
3. Began fall leaf collection.
4. Issued two dumpster permits
5. Turned off lights on yield sign at Cannon Square

### **b. FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Adair/ Hoadley)**

- 1) 9/2/17, 5:30 pm, assist SAC, person fell down a flight of stairs, 32 Gold Street
- 2) 9/3/17, 1:37 pm, fire alarm activation, 24 Water Street, (burned lunch)
- 3) 9/4/17, 11:11 am, lift assist for SAC, 196 Water Street, cancelled enroute
- 4) 9/4/17, 5:09 pm, odor of gas, 214 Flanders Road, (defective pool heater)
- 5) 9/5/17, 9:04 am, person locked in bathroom, Stonington Shell Station, (subject self-extricated)
- 6) 9/12/17, 9:14 pm, structure fire, 44 Flanders Road, (furnace malfunction)
- 7) 9/14/17, 9:36 am, CO detector activation, 330 North Main Street, (nothing found)
- 8) 9/19/17, 8:26 pm, pole fire, 17 Elihu Island Road, (called Eversource to shut down)
- 9) 9/25/17, 2:11 am, CO detector activation, 76 Water Street, (nothing found)
- 10) 9/28/17, 9:03 pm, Fire Alarm Activation, 530 Stonington Road, (cleaning grill at Stonington Pizza)

New doors are being installed at the Stonington Borough Fire Department. Three doors have been installed, with the installation of one pending. The installation project will be completed by 10/17/17, and painting is scheduled around the new doors and windows for the week of 10/23/17-10/27/17.

Blasting for the new drainage pipe on Bayview Avenue will begin the week of 10/23/17-10/27/17. Permits have been signed; work must be done within 30 days of permit approval. The work will take approximately two days once started.

Chief Hoadley reported that fire marshal work is continuing. 80% of residents are very cooperative.

### **c. PARKS, TREES AND RIGHTS OF WAY (Barnes)**

The tree donated by Borough resident Bill Morris has been planted in Wadawanuck Square. A plaque similar to those around neighboring trees will be ordered and installed. The plaque will say: "Gift of William B. Morris 2017".

Pruning of two trees in front of 170 Water Street and one tree in front of 84 Water Street is being scheduled.

### **d. PUBLIC BUILDINGS (Mastroianni)**

Quote has been obtained to repair damaged ceiling in Borough Hall kitchen. Fire escape needs work.

### **e. SIDEWALKS (Scala) – No activity this month.**

**f. POLICE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Nicholas)**

During the month of September 2017 there were 39 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 9 Medical Assists, 5 Business/Building Checks, 4 Accidents No Injury, 4 Animal Control, 3 Nuisance, 2 Assist Other Agency, 2 911 Hang Ups and 2 Fire Alarms. There was one incident each of Keys in Vehicle, Disturbance, Burglar Alarm (False Alarm), Found Item, Suspicious Activity, Assault, Larceny, and a Motor Vehicle Infraction.

**g. UTILITIES AND SANITATION (von Ruffer Hills)**

Street lights that are out in the Borough have been reported to Eversource and will be repaired.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT -- None**

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. Consider establishing a charter revision commission (V)

The Board discussed at its last meeting the possible establishment of a charter revision commission; action has not been taken yet.

Carol Martin mentioned that she had attended the BoroVision meeting at the LaGrua Center and that her interpretation of the discussion was that it was around what could be done without revising charter. Ms. Martin suggested that changes to the charter not be rushed into and that a follow-up meeting should take place with discussions around a shorter list of options. The Warden noted that some people at the meeting in August had expressed a willingness to form committees to fill some of the gaps in Borough government; however, no one has stepped forward since the meeting. All options, except for the one to do nothing, involve some sort of change. Forming a charter commission does not necessarily mean major change, as the Commission may decide to change nothing. The warden also pointed out that the current charter was adopted in 1960, and only a few changes had been made since then. Most of the changes that have been made are superficial.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, was made to adopt a resolution that the Board of Warden and Burgesses of the Borough of Stonington establish a charter revision commission, consisting of not more than nine electors of the Borough of Stonington. Candidates for the commission will be considered, and commission members will be appointed, by the Board no later than November 16, 2017. The motion passed. The November meeting will need to be rescheduled to conform with state law, which requires that the commission appointments be made within 30 days of forming the commission.

b. Discuss clerk-treasurer vacancy – A Clerk-Treasurer still is needed to replace Bergin O’Malley. Notices have been posted. No candidates have come forward. The Warden asked burgesses and the public to keep the position in mind and spread the word to Borough residents.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

a. No requests received to use Borough property

b. The Warden reported that a mature linden tree is staining the sidewalk, patio, and bushes at 75 Main Street. The Tree Commissioner denied the property owner's request to remove the tree, and the owner of the property has appealed that decision.

Ms. Peyton Horne reported that the tree, as it has grown, has become a nuisance. It leaves stains on her patio. Ms. Horne stated that a safety issue has been created at her home, because of the black aphid "honeydew" on her front steps and patio. She also stated that the tree has done damage to the bushes she has planted in front of her home, and that the brick patio in front of her home has to be power washed. Ms. Horne stated that the tree causes her angst and is a nuisance to workers at her home, and to neighbors. Ms. Horne would like to replace the tree with one that would be "more congenial".

The Tree Commissioner suggested attempting to treat the tree according to recommendations made by a licensed arborist. The treatment recommended by Bartlett Tree Experts includes the following: Perform foliage treatment to the Linden tree located at the front of 75 Main Street twice in 2018 – once in May and again in July. Burgess Mastroiani noted that the Board does not have information on the success rate of the recommended treatment.

A motion was made by Burgess Scala and seconded by Burgess Adair to approve Ms. Horne's appeal.

A motion was made by Burgess von Ruffer-Hills and seconded by Burgess Nicholas to table Burgess Scala's motion, so that more information can be gathered. Burgess Scala agreed to table his motion.

In view of the delay in making a decision and to alleviate safety concerns, Warden Callahan informed Ms. Horne that the Borough would reimburse the cost of power washing her patio and sidewalk as well as the cost of aphid spraying that she had done in May of this year. The tree commissioner will request a report from Bartlett on the efficacy of the proposed aphid treatment for the November meeting

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Warden reported that the Board of Warden and Burgesses have been invited to attend a Strategic Planning Meeting at the Stonington Free Library on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT (V)**

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, adjournment of the meeting at 8:40 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Barnes, Burgess/ Acting Clerk  
October 20, 2017