

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Special Meeting
November 13, 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, and Robert Scala.

The Warden noted a thank you card received by the Board from the family of Borough Administrative Assistant, Barbara Perry regarding the passing of her mother, Eleanor Perry, a long-time resident of the Borough.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, the minutes from the October 16 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Processed quarterly reports. Processed annual payroll audit.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- Martha Mitchell: Letter regarding linden tree at 75 Main Street
- Stonington Community Center: Letter requesting disbursement of 2017-18 FY contribution (done).
- Anthony & Julie Inzero: Letter regarding potential solar array system at wastewater treatment plant
- Stuart J.D. Schwartzstein: Letter regarding linden tree at 75 Main Street

5. REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER--- None

6. REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills paid October 16 through November 9, 2017 totaled \$79,182.50.
Net income as of November 9, 2017 is \$566,854

7. WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Prepared and mailed, with help from Michael Schefers, annual letter and Waldron/Williams appeal to residents.
2. Witnessed blasting for new storm water line between Bayview Avenue and outfall
3. Assisted SCCOG with selection process for CRS consultant
4. Worked on CRS recertification.

5. Worked on forming charter revision commission
6. Completed U.S.Census Bureau survey on Borough finances

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. STREETS (*Callahan*)

1. Completed Summit and Bayview Streets crosswalks and paving on Bayview
2. Continued fall leaf collection.
3. Major cleanup after storm on October 29th

b. FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (*Adair*)

There were 23 alarms in October, 2017. 16 were storm-related. They were as follows:

- 1) 10-12-17 5:54pm Oven Fire 103 Elm St. (self-cleaning oven)
- 2) 10-16-17 3:41pm MVA rollover IFO 282 Elm St. (darn cell phones)
- 3) 10-19-17 1:28pm Wire down IFO [9 Chesebro Lane](#) (cable TV)
- 4) 10-20-17 6:17pm Outside Fire [2 Chesebro Lane](#) (Fire Pit, we put it out)
- 5) 10-21-17 3:55pm MVA Rt. 1 @ North Main St. (no injuries)
- 6) 10-25-17 4:10pm Box 15 Velvet Mill (filling Summit St. tank)
- 7) 10-25-17 7:19pm Fire Alarm Activation 53 Main St. (Burnt Steak)
- 8) 10-29-17 9:40pm Fire Alarm Activation 84 Water St. (power outage)
- 9) 10-29-17 9:57pm Wires down North Water @ Lambert Lane (broken pole)
- 10) 10-30-17 12:50am Wires down Elm St. @ Meadow Ave. (massive tree down)
- 11) 10-30-17 5:57am Tree on wires IFO 15 Collins Rd.
- 12) 10-30-17 6:38am Tree on wires IFO 6 Walnut St. Lords Pt.
- 13) 10-30-17 8:00am Tree & Wires down IFO 68 Island Rd.
- 14) 10-30-17 8:35am Live Wires on ground IFO [189 Elm St.](#)
- 15) 10-30-17 9:29am Power lines down IFO 509 Stonington Rd. (Big tree limb)
- 16) 10-30-17 10:32am Service line down to 203 North Main St.
- 17) 10-30-17 10:32am Wires down IFO 29 Water St. (cable TV)
- 18) 10-30-17 1:25pm Water Emergency 10 Skipper St. Lords Pt. (Pump 1 ft. From bsmt)
- 19) 10-30-17 4:53pm Medical Assist with SAC [59 Quanaduck Rd.](#) (Generator for Oxygen)
- 20) 10-30-17 5:16pm Live Wires on ground [189 Elm St.](#)
- 21) 10-30-17 6:45pm Box 15 Velvet mill
- 22) 10-31-17 7:28am Wires Down IFO [20 Hancox St.](#) (Phone line)
- 23) 10-31-17 11:52pm Power lines down IFO [163 Elm St.](#)

Because of the 60 MPH wind storm on October 29th and 30th, the Fire Department was really pushed and the number of responses this October is way more than normal. Once again, citizens of the Borough should give thanks for these guys who are on call 24/7 - 24 hours a day and leave sleep, parties and family to respond in snow, sleet and the rain that poured the night of the storm. I watched from my window the emergency lights and fire vehicles and police working in the dark on #8 above and felt somewhat guilty knowing that when I put the binoculars down I could just go back to bed. These people take their responsibilities seriously.

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

A tree on Chesebrough Lane, which was damaged in the storm, was removed last week. Aside from that, there was little damage to public trees.

Pruning of the trees on Water Street will take place this month (November).

The Board received two more letters from Borough residents (for a total of seven) opposing removal of the Linden tree in front of 75 Main Street. As requested at the October meeting, here is information from Bartlett Tree Experts about the tree and recommended treatment:

“The black discoloration on the understory plants and patio at 75 Main Street is from a fungus called sooty mold. This fungus feeds on the sweet “honeydew” waste of many insects that pierce and suck nutrients from trees and shrubs. Sooty mold does not infect plants but simply grows on the surfaces in which honeydew has fallen. Sooty mold rarely kills plants but can be a minor stress as it can inhibit photosynthesis. Linden trees are common hosts of aphids. These aphids feed upon the fluids in the Linden leaves and excrete a sugary waste “honeydew” which falls to the ground or whatever may be beneath. The best way to minimize or eliminate future sooty mold is to address the insect creating the honeydew. I recommend treating the Linden for aphids starting in spring. Aphids have many generations each year and often require more than a single treatment to control. There is no guarantee a new set of aphids will not infect the trees in upcoming years and future treatment may be required.

Generally, 2-3 treatments per year are enough to control aphids. With luck, we won’t have to treat year after year but I can’t guarantee they won’t return. Aphids are a flying insect so can travel from surrounding areas.

The treatment is guaranteed to kill the aphids on contact. New ones can fly in and that’s why the follow up treatments as the seasons progress are recommended. The treatment is a foliar spray to the canopy. We use a product called Acelepryn, and there are no side effects for people, animals, and very importantly with Linden trees – bees. This is a truly amazing product and it goes so far as to state on the EPA approved label ‘When used as directed this product does not present a hazard to humans or domestic animals’. In 20+ years of treating trees we’ve never had a product so environmentally friendly. Even organic products have a harsher label.”

d. PUBLIC BUILDINGS (Mastroianni)

Repairs to Borough Hall kitchen will begin soon.

e. SIDEWALKS (Scala) – No activity this month

f. POLICE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Nicholas)

During the month of October, 2017, there were 65 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 10 Fire Related Calls, 9 Business/Building Checks, 9 Burglar Alarms (4 of which were false), 6 Motor Vehicle Incidents, 4 Accidents one with an injury, 3 Suspicious Activities, 3 Assist Citizens, 3 911 Hang Ups/Misdials, 2 Welfare Checks, 2 Disturbances and 2 Medical Assists. There was one incident each of Keys in Vehicle,

Suicide Attempt, Harassment, Minor Traffic Service, Criminal Mischief, Animal Control, Forgery, Alarm Not Registered, Larceny, Open Window, a Motor Vehicle Infraction and General Information. There was one arrest related to the disturbance.

g. UTILITIES AND SANITATION (von Ruffer Hills) ---- No report.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT-- None

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Consider appeal of request to remove linden tree at 75 Main Street (V)
Warden Callahan summarized the background, and several residents spoke against removing the tree. Peyton Horne stated that she had a proposal from a tree service that focused on pruning the tree. Nick Vallas of Bartlett Tree Experts spoke about treatment options (see item 8.c, above) that focus on multiple sprayings with a solution that is highly effective against aphids. Burgess Scala's tabled motion to approve Ms. Horne's appeal was brought up for consideration and defeated, 4-1, with Scala voting in favor. Warden Callahan then moved that Ms. Horne's appeal be denied, and that the Borough undertake anti-aphid treatment and pruning of the linden tree next summer to determine the effectiveness of such treatment on lindens (of which there are at least six along Main Street). The treatment and pruning will be performed by a licensed arborist at Borough's expense. Seconded by Adair. Passed 4 to 1, with Scala voting against the motion.

b. Consider modifying charter revision commission composition (V)
Warden Callahan moved that the composition of the charter revision commission as established by Board resolution on October 16, 2017, be revised to include two alternate members in addition to the nine regular members. Seconded by Scala. Approved unanimously.

c. Consider guidelines for the charter revision commission (V)
Callahan moved that the charter revision commission shall undertake a thorough review of the existing Borough charter for the purpose of (a) identifying ways in which Borough governance may be made more efficient and sustainable; and (b) identifying sections that no longer apply or require modification. Having conducted such a review, the commission shall prepare a report to the Board of Warden & Burgesses, which proposes revisions, additions, and deletions to the present charter that address the review findings. A minority report may also be submitted. The draft report(s) shall be presented to the Board no later than June 30, 2018. All commission deliberations and operations shall be conducted as prescribed by Connecticut general statutes. Seconded by Adair. Approved unanimously.

d. Consider appointing charter revision commission members (V)
Callahan moved that the following residents of Stonington Borough be appointed as members of the charter revision commission: regular members – Jesse Diggs (8 School Street), Chris Errichetti (Stonington Commons), Richard Hanratty (103 Main Street), Beth Leamon (10 School Street), Don Maranell (35 Bayview Avenue), Carol Martin (3 Bayview Avenue), Shaun Mastroianni (5 Union Street), Tim Metzger (1 Church Street), Jennifer O'Brien (110 Elm Street); alternates – John Spencer (25 Orchard Street) and Betty Richards (18 School Street). Shaun Mastroianni is appointed as chair, pro tem, for the purpose of calling the first meeting of the commission, at which meeting the commission may elect a permanent chair. Seconded by Scala. Approved unanimously.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consider requests to use Borough property: SVIA – Holiday Stroll (V)
Callahan moved approval, Scala seconded. Approved unanimously.

b. Presentation by PKF O'Connor-Davies, LLP on FY-17 financials
Marcia Marien of PKF O'Connor-Davies gave the presentation. She noted changes this year due to requirements of GASB-73 regarding the Fire Department Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP). The Borough remains in a strong financial position.

c. Consider accepting annual financial statements for FY2016-17 (V)
Callahan moved approval, second by Scala. Approved unanimously.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Hoadley has recommended that Isaac Wainston of Mason's Island be accepted as a Junior Firefighter. Callahan recommended approval, Scala seconded. Approved unanimously.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Warden Callahan, adjournment of the meeting at 8:43 p.m. was unanimously approved.

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