

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting - July 15, 2019**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeff Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m. Present were Burgesses Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, Bergin O'Malley, Amy Nicholas, Shaun Mastroianni and Karen von Ruffer Hills. Also present was Tiffany Cook, serving as Clerk-Treasurer.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess von Ruffer Hills, the minutes of the regular meeting held June 17, 2019 were unanimously approved, with one name spelling correction (Hollycroft Foundation).

3. REPORT OF ADMIN ASSISTANT

- Received June property taxes from town: \$836.04
- Received donation to Wayland's wharf: \$100.00
- Received copier fees: \$27.20
- Sent request to town for FY 19/20 disbursement

4. CORRESPONDENCE

General: Thomas Taylor: email regarding sidewalk issues

Requests:

Michelle Cady: 8/10 – wag & wiggle walk

Kelleyspace: 8/20 – Battle of Stonington 5K

Festival of Holy Ghost: 8/31& 9/1- processions

Michelle Cady : 9/14 Paw Parade

Kathy Gauthier: 9/14 -wedding

Regan Morse: 8/13-15 – Stonington Players at Wadawanuck Square

Meetings: None

5. REPORT OF CLERK TREASURER

Nothing to report this month

6. REVIEW of BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills through July 11th totaled \$65,502. The FY-19 end-of-year I & E reported net income of \$120,182 for the fiscal year. Net income for the first two weeks of FY-20 is negative \$11,133. No FY-20 property tax revenue has been received yet.

7. WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Conducted FEMA CRS verification visit on June 26th, and began following up with additional documentation.
2. Worked with zoning officer and chair of P&ZC on revisions to zoning regs
3. Marched in July Fourth parade.
4. Held planning meeting with O'Connor Davies Auditors

BOROUGH CLOCK –

United Church is in danger of closing in 2-3 months. Future of property is unknown.

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. Streets and Sidewalks

1. Continued sweeping streets and mowing lawns
2. Repaired granite bench at Point.
3. Painted cross walks and other street striping.
4. Graded point parking area, added stone.
5. Issued five notices for sidewalk issues.

b. Fire & Emergency Management

We responded to 3 Alarms in June 2019, they were as follows:

- 1) 6-12-19 7:29am MVA IFO 380 North Main St. (head on, 1 to hospital)
 - 2) 6-15-19 11:17pm Fire Alarm Activation 194 Water St. (Dog Watch, accidental)
 - 3) 6-29-19 1:30am Box 15 Velvet Mill (pull station came off wall)
- Another quiet month!

The issue of Briar Patch Rd not being an official Town rd was addressed, as the SFD will not take responsibility for rocks in road preventing fire trucks to have access in case of emergency. However, the SFD has agreed to pay up to \$3k to have rocks removed so they can have access. The Borough will consider funding after assessing what was done with the initial \$3k. As the property lines are undefined, this is complicated.

c. Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

The trees on Wad Square need to be treated for a fungus caused by the rain. Thankfully it does not need to be taken down. The cost to treat the tree is less than \$500.

Tree Inventory is almost complete. Tags are being prepared for each tree, with latin name and ID number for each tree. Every Borough tree will be documented, and the inventory will be put on-line.

More sculptures were placed in Wimpeimer Park.

d. Public Buildings

Flowers were planted at the firehouse
Contractor waiting for permitting for the generator at Boro Hall.

e. Public Information

Nothing to report

f. Police and Public Affairs

During the month of May 2019 there were 55 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 9 Medical Assists, 8 Check Building/Business, 4 Burglar Alarms all of which were false, 4 Accidents including 2 Hit and Runs, 4 Assist Citizen, 3 911Misdials, 3 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 2 Fire Related Calls, 2 Suspicious Activities, 2 Trespass and 2 Nuisance Related Calls. There was one incident each of Minor Traffic Service, Found Item, Threatening, Criminal Mischief, Assist Other Agency, Motor Vehicle Stop, Escort, Pistol Permit, Animal Control, Alarm Panic, Disturbance and a Warrant was served.

There were 2 arrests one relating to a hit and run accident and one related to the warrant.

Also, there is a resident request for the speed sign to go up in a different location.

g. Utilities & Sanitation

There has been a complaint from the Como about cleaning the port-o-john at the Point.
Sanitation

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Zack Szostak, of 102 Main Street, raised a concern for the area under the viaduct that is in blight. It is not Dodson’s or the Town’s property. It has been confirmed that it is in fact Borough property so clean up will be addressed.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Warden Callahan reported on the FEMA Verification Visit, which was conducted on June 26th. The visit went well and while we will not have our final score for several months it appears the Borough will retain its class 8 rating, meaning residents who have flood policies through the NFIP receive a ten percent discount on their premiums. He noted that 60 % (168 out of 280) of properties in the flood plain are insured through NFIP, which is a high percentage. He pointed out that the cumulative savings accrued because of the Borough’s Class 8 CRS rating amounts to almost \$50,000 per year.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. The following requests to use Borough Property were considered: Battle of Stonington Race by Kelley’s Pace on August 20; Wag and Wiggle Dog Walk by Michelle Cady on August 17th; Festival of the Holy Ghost procession for Aug 31-Sept 1; Gauthier Wedding at Wayland’s Wharf

on Sept. 14; and the Stonington Players on Wad Square, Aug 13-15. Warden Callahan moved to approve the requests, with Burgess Rogers seconding the motion. All were in favor and none were opposed.

The request for the Paw Parade event has been moved to the August meeting.

b. There was discussion on SBO-01, relative to sidewalk obstruction, as a resident complained that some Water Street business owners were obstructing sidewalks. It was noted that these props are essential for livelihood of businesses in the Boro. This will be looked at in more detail, as the intent is to encourage more compliance with minimal regulation.

c. The west seawall at Waylands Wharf is in need of repair. Pictures of the wall were distributed. Warden Callahan will talk to masonry repair contractors.

d. The United Church is in financial crisis with a possibility of having to close its doors. The neighbor that sued the Church over alleged oil tank leak at their parsonage lost the suit but is filing an appeal. The Church has depleted their funds on the initial suit. The Borough owns the tower clock and bell (dating from 1838), and it is unclear what would happen to them if the church closes.

12. OTHER BUSINESS -

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess O'Malley, seconded by Burgess Nicholas adjournment of the regular meeting at 8:06 p.m. was unanimously approved

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany Cook, Clerk-Treasurer
June 17, 2019