

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.
STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS
173 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PAWCATUCK, CT 06379**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Bill Turner, Vice Chairman Patricia Coan,
Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates, Commissioner Jessica Mills, Commissioner Richard
Balestracci
Chief Jay DelGrosso, Deputy Chief Todd Olson, Captain Bryan Schneider

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Turner called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

2. Remarks of the Public

3. Correspondence

a. Letter re: Recent speed limit change on Lantern Hill Rd, and stop signs on Jerry Brown Rd, Coogan Blvd, Perkins Drive

Earle A. Gainsley Jr, and Barbara Gainsley, Laura Ave Residents, Stonington

Mr. and Mrs. Gainsley came before the commission to request that the speed limit on Lantern Hill Road be increased to 35 mph, from the current 25 mph. It was Mr. Gainsley's belief that officers patrol in that area to fulfill a ticket quota. Chief DelGrosso explained that officers do not have a ticketing quota, officers are placed in areas if numerous speeding complaints are made to the department. These speed enforcements are paid for by Federal grants. Lantern Hill has had numerous speeding complaints, and this is the first complaint of the speed limit being too low. Commissioner Mills expressed that she would like to see more specific data regarding the speed of cars on Lantern Hill. Chief DelGrosso told the Commissioners that he will place a speed sign on Lantern Hill for 1 month to collect more specific data for the Commissioners to review.

Mr. Gainsley would also like the 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Jerry Brown Rd/ Coogan Blvd/Perkins Farm to be removed. The commission expressed that the traffic in that area has significantly increased due to Hartford Health Care, Stone Ridge, Deans Mill, and the many events held at the Old Mystic Village. Chief DelGrosso told the commissioners he can collect data for that intersection if they wish.

b. Letter: Re Cottrell St Complaint

There was no one in attendance regarding this complaint, nor was there contact info provided with the complaint. Mr. Tamsky asked the commission what the contents of the letter were in regards to. Deputy Chief Olson explained the letter touched on a number of things including one-way road concerns, Whalers Inn construction, and the acquiring of Seaport Marine property for public parking. Deputy Chief Olson has spoken with the manager of construction at Whalers Inn, and will keep an eye on it. Mr. Tamsky asked the commission if they have reevaluated the one-way on Cottrell Street, Chairman Turner responded that they have not put out a formal request for public comment.

4. Planning and Zoning Permit Applications

- a. Planning & Zoning Text & Map Amendment Application: Town of Stonington
COMMENTS NEEDED

Clifton Iler, Town of Stonington Planner

Mr. Iler was in attendance to bring a few zoning and regulation amendments in front of the board, it was his belief that many of the proposed amendments were not relevant to the commission, but due to formalities are required to come before the commission regardless of the content. In summary, the Town has been doing a re-write of the regulations and these amendments are fixing typos, and clearing up redundancies.

Commissioner Bates moved that the commission has no comments, and sees no concerns, Commissioner Coan seconded that motion. No discussion, all in favor.

- b. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: Precious Memories Place
COMMENTS NEEDED

Christine Eckersley, Director and Owner Precious Memories Place

Ms. Eckersley was in attendance representing Precious Memories Place. Precious Memories currently has a waitlist of about 300 children, including infants and toddlers, the need for childcare in the area is immense. Precious Memories is looking to expand in order to help with this need. Ms. Eckersley noted they have not had any traffic issues entering, or exiting their parking lot, which goes onto Route 27. They will be adding parking. They will have 1 spot for every 5 students, including a handicap spot, due to being over the 25 parking spots, the 1 to every 5 students incorporates the extra staff needed. Chairman Turner asked if there was a valet spot for parents dropping off/ picking up children. Ms. Eckersley noted that after Covid parents got used to dropping off/ picking up at the door, which makes for a steady flow, and they have not had any bottlenecks in the parking lot, or valet area. During this construction they are not looking at changing the setbacks, or any other major changes. Commissioner Bates expressed that adding on to an already established facility is the most efficient way to expand the much-needed capacity.

Commissioner Coan made a motion to pass along to planning and zoning, that the police commission sees no issues with this application as it relates to traffic, safety, and parking, Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

- c. Planning & Zoning Coastal Area Management Application: Town of Stonington (CLA Engineers, Inc.) *Property includes the rights-of-way of Washington Street and School Street, Mystic.* ***COMMENTS NEEDED***

Clifton Iler, Town of Stonington Planner

Mr. Iler was in attendance on behalf of the Public Works Department. The application largely includes sidewalk replacement and drainage replacement on School Street, and on Washington Street updating some of the drainage outfalls, and adding a sidewalk to one side of the street. Commissioner Mills asked about the impacts they are expecting to Route 1, and Route 27 due to locations of the streets during the busy summer time, when work is expected to start. Mr. Iler stated some impacts to be expected, but was unsure of how that was accounted for during Public Works planning. Chief DelGrosso asked if there was a set timeline for the work. Mr. Iler believes that there will be a time component, the project has already been budgeted for but due to the above revisions the projects start was delayed. Chief DelGrosso said he would reach out to the Director of Public Works to get answers regarding the project's timeline for the Commission.

Commissioner Coan made a motion to pass along to planning and zoning, that the police commission sees no issues with this application as it relates to traffic, safety, and parking, Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

5. Special Events

a. National Ride of Silence *** NO VOTE NEEDED ***

Jennifer Lacker, Bike Stonington

Kevin Burke, Bike Stonington

Chief DelGrosso stated he had spoken with Ms. Lacker via telephone earlier in the week regarding the ride, as they were unsure if this constitutes as a special event. Due to them expecting about 15-20 bikers they found it was more of a club ride, and not an event, the Chief asked they come in front of the Commission in case the commissioners had questions regarding this. Chief DelGrosso expressed if they have any issues, they can call the department and they would take care of it. Mr. Burke explained the ride will depart from Stonington High School on May 15th. Bikers will be using the controlled traffic light to access Route 1, which they will take to Mystic Cycle Center where the ride ends. It is a silent ride, to honor their fallen cyclist, and the maximum speed limit is 12 mph. Chairman Turner noted if it becomes a larger event, they will need to come back in front of the Board of Commissioners, and will need further approvals. Chief DelGrosso reiterated if they need assistance to call the department and they will assist. They understood, and thanked the commission.

Ms. Lacker urged the commission to look at the data for all road users regarding Lantern Hill (3a on the agenda) that area is popular for cyclist. Ms. Lacker said she can provide data in terms of a heat map. Chief DelGrosso stated is she could provide that information to us we can let her know when the speed sign has been installed.

6. Traffic

7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, March 28, 2024 Special Meeting * VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Coan made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, March 28, 2024 Special Meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

b. Monthly report

c Special Events Schedule

Chief DelGrosso noted that the Mystic Half Marathon, Duck Race, and Laps 4 Lucy are coming up and the department does not expect any issues.

d Youth Officer, B.E.A.R.S Instructor, Security Officers

Youth Officer Kerry Browning has left the department for another job. The department has redefined the position of Youth Officer, and separated the responsibilities that once lied on the one officer. The Youth Officer, which is now the Youth Detective was given to Officer Friend, B.E.A.R.S instructor is Officer Saunders, and the school security/training officer is Officer Hewes. The department is excited about where they are in regards to school safety.

Chief DelGrosso noted that although not listed on the agenda, he was previously asked by the commission to get a clear definitive answer from the town regarding the Old Mystic Village, and if they need special use permits. It has been discussed amongst the town and Old Mystic Village attorneys, and looks as if they do not need a special use permit. However, it was not a definitive answer and the Chief would like them to look into it again, he will be sitting down with the town and Old Mystic Village representatives to get a definitive answer for the commissioners.

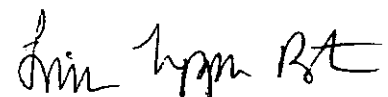
9. Consent Agenda

a. Highway use Permit: Ragnar Relay

10. Adjourn

At 5:56 p.m., Commissioner Coan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bates, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lisa Tepper Bates

Secretary