

February 14, 2024

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 4:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough, Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie and Selectman Ben Tamsky. Members of the public and press were present.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

Ms. Tracy Swain of Pawcatuck had several questions about testing at the Circus Lot property including but not limited to soil, water, hazardous waste, Phase I and II as well as grant potential, flooding of the property and if the Board members ever launched kayaks from the location.

(4) Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Mr. Tamsky, seconded by Ms. Downie and voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 24, 2024.
- A motion was made by Mr. Tamsky, seconded by Ms. Downie and voted unanimously to approve the special joint Board of Selectmen/CIP meeting minutes of January 31, 2024.

(5) Correspondence

- The Board received an application from Peter Gardner who is interested in serving on the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission.
- The Board received an application from Chris Johnson and Lynn Young who are interested in serving on the Charter Revision Commission.
- The Board received an application from Lisa Reid who is interested in serving on the Housing Authority.
- The Board received correspondence from Town Planner Clifton Iler noting that the Planning and Zoning Commission completed the 8-24 review of the Circus Lot property unanimously approving the purchase noting it aligns with the Plan of Conservation and Development.

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Resignation – Housing Opportunities Commission

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Marty Booker from the Commission on Aging.

(7) Old Business

Discussion – Charter Revision Commission

Ms. Chesebrough shared updated interview questions with the Board in advance of the next meeting when interviews will be conducted.

(8) New Business

Set Call for Special Town Meeting on February 26, 2024 to consider and vote upon:

- FIRST: A resolution to authorize the purchase of certain real property located on Noyes Avenue, and commonly known as “the Circus Lot,” from the Town of Westerly for Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) as provided for in a certain deed recorded in Volume 236, Page 349 of the Town of Stonington Land Records; and to further authorize the First Selectman to sign any and all documents necessary and incidental to effectuate said purchase.
- SECOND: A resolution to adopt an Ordinance of the Town of Stonington, Connecticut, establishing a Cemetery Commission.

Ms. Chesebrough read the following resolution:

Be it hereby resolved that, pursuant to Section 3-3 of the Charter, the Board of Selectmen calls a Special Town Meeting for Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stonington High School, 176 South

Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT to consider and act upon resolutions as outlined in the Notice of Special Town Meeting which will be attached to the Minutes of this meeting as Appendix "A".

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Mr. Tamsky and voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie gave an overview of the Wequetequock Clean Water Coalition meeting as well as the interview panel she took part in for the Mystic River Boathouse Park. She noted that she went on another site walk at the Circus Lot property with staff from Stonington and Westerly including Westerly Water. She shared general details on environmental testing and why certain types of tests are done or not on different properties. She provided feedback on the process of testing at the Circus Lot noting that Phase I and a partial Phase II were completed showing no areas of concern. She did not believe the site would need remediation.
- Mr. Tamsky gave an overview of the Mystic Harbor Management Commission noting there was a presentation from the Mystic River Boathouse Park regarding their dock. He suggested that those involved with the water taxi project should also meet with the Mystic Harbor Management Commission. He was interested in learning more about sidewalks on Washington Street.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that she would be adding an outline to the Town website about the Circus Lot. She noted that there are several different grant opportunities for the Circus Lot at the State/Federal level but has received past feedback that it would be more competitive and likely to receive funding if the Town owned the property. She added that she had kayaked the area and the Circus Lot could be another stop along the river. The concept design of the Circus Lot includes the removal of invasive plant species and replacement with native species. She gave an overview on meetings she attended including the proposed water taxi in Mystic, Commission on Aging and Washington Street regarding a potential sidewalk project. She stated that the budget process is underway noting details about the upcoming meetings are on the Town website.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Stacey Haskell

Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary

RESOLUTION TO CALL A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 3-3 of the Charter, the Board of Selectmen calls a Special Town Meeting for Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stonington High School, 176 South Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT to consider and act upon resolutions as outlined in the Notice of Special Town Meeting which will be attached to the Minutes of this meeting as Appendix "A", which Notice is hereby approved.

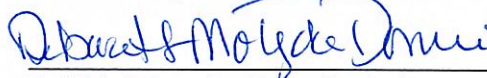
Signed and dated this 14th day of February, 2024 by the Stonington Board of Selectmen.



Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectman



Ben Tamsky, Selectman



Debbie Motycka Downie, Selectwoman

APPENDIX "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF STONINGTON

The Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Stonington, Connecticut, will be held at Stonington High School, 176 S Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT 06379 on **Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** Check-in will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your identification.

To consider, discuss, and vote upon the following:

FIRST: A resolution to authorize the purchase of certain real property located on Noyes Avenue, and commonly known as "the Circus Lot," from the Town of Westerly for Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) as provided for in a certain deed recorded in Volume 236, Page 349 of the Town of Stonington Land Records; and to further authorize the First Selectman to sign any and all documents necessary and incidental to effectuate said purchase. A copy of the deed is on file in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours and online at www.stonington-ct.gov.

SECOND: A resolution to adopt an Ordinance of the Town of Stonington, Connecticut, establishing a Cemetery Commission. A copy of the complete text of the proposed ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours and online at www.stonington-ct.gov.

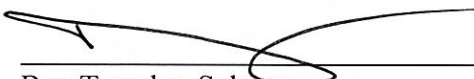
At this hearing electors and residents may appear and be heard.

All ordinances and amendments thereto shall become effective following approval by Town Meeting and fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper having a substantial circulation within the Town of Stonington.

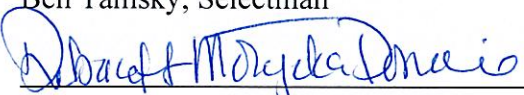
Dated at Stonington, Connecticut this 14th day of February, 2024.



Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectman



Ben Tamsky, Selectman



Debbie Motycka Downie, Selectwoman