

April 23, 2020

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Town Hall at 3:00 p.m. This meeting was also streamed virtually on Facebook live as well as via audio on a conference line. First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough was live on the Facebook feed while Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie joined via audio through the conference call line. No public or press were present in the room. Public and press were able to view via Facebook live as well as audio through a conference call.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the special meeting minutes of March 25, 2020 and April 16, 2020.

(4) Correspondence

Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Kristin Clarke in the form of an application for the Public Communication Ad Hoc Committee.

(5) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Recreation Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Stephanie Kindel Hartell as an alternate to the Recreation Commission.

Appointment – Director of Community and Economic Development

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Susan Cullen as the Director of Community and Economic Development.

(6) Old Business

Update on COVID-19

Ms. Chesebrough gave an update regarding COVID-19 stating that she continues to participate in 3-5 weekly state level calls. The State of CT is continuing to working on partnerships for more localized testing sites. The projections for potential reopening are gearing towards the end of May with Eastern CT not set to hit peak COVID cases for a few more weeks. She reminded everyone to please continue social distancing and wear your masks. COVID-19 updates can be found on the Town's website and Facebook page.

(7) New Business

Discussion - Affordable Housing Plan – Planning Grant and Resolution

Mr. Keith Brynes, Town Planner, gave an overview of the affordable housing plan including the planning grant and resolution. The resolution gives the First Selectman authority to submit the grant and sign off on all subsequent documents. Mr. Brynes stated that they are looking to apply for a grant from the Department of Housing for the creation of an affordable housing plan. The program still needs the approval of the State Bonds Commission. When developing the plan, they will look at items such as the needs of the Town, housing policies, how to keep current units affordable and land use regulations.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the Affordable Housing Plan including the planning grant and resolution.

Request for Use of Donahue Park

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce for the 22nd Annual Duck Race on June 27, 2020.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve to the use of Donahue Park on October 10, 2020 by St. Michael School for their 5K pre/post-race activities.

Request – Use of 4th District Voting Hall/49 N. Stonington Rd. Parking Lots

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve use of both parking lots during the Wooden Boat Show from August 12-16, 2020.

Discussion – Sustainable Stonington (Pollinator Pathway Program)

Ms. Chesbrough gave an overview of the Pollinator Pathway Program in coordination with the Sustainable CT Program. She stated that the Town will be planting pollinator pathways in three different locations. Pollinator pathways are inexpensive to plant and very beneficial to the environment. The program encourages community members to consider eliminating the use of chemicals on lawns while adding native or pollinator friendly plantings on their properties. Further information regarding the program can be found on the Town's website. Ms. Chesbrough thanked Ms. Noreen Kepple for her assistance regarding the program. Ms. Strunk and Ms. Downie were both very excited for the program.

(8) Comments from the Public

None

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie thanked the community for all of their efforts in helping one another. She stated that a resident had asked her if the Town would consider a Recognition Awards Program for those who have gone above and beyond throughout this crisis. The Board agreed it was a great idea and will discuss further in the future.
- Ms. Strunk stated that the K-12 Building Committee will be holding a virtual meeting next week. She added that she is looking forward to when the Board of Selectmen can meet again in person.
- Ms. Chesbrough stated that the website stoningtonhelps.org has launched with many volunteers signing up to assist but added they are looking for residents who wish to be recipients. The volunteer group could assist in grocery deliveries or running errands. The mask making groups continue to provide masks throughout the community. Stonington Feeds Stonington has raised over \$21,000. Those funds have gone to purchase gift cards at local businesses and have been given to residents. If you have not done so please remember to complete the census. Information can be found at 2020census.gov.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.



Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary