

STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.
STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS
173 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PAWCATUCK, CT 06379

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy & Vice Chairman Robert Elmer
Commissioners Bill Turner, Lisa Tepper Bates & Patricia Coan
Chief Jay DelGrosso & Captain Todd Olson

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman O'Shaughnessy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that in 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Police Officers Memorial Day and this week, May 11-17 as National Police Week. The commission would like to recognize and send our appreciation to the men and woman of the Stonington Police Department for their dedication and Services to the Town of Stonington. Their career is one of high demand, extreme stress, and great risk. We would also like to thank the families of our officers, as without their support the success and achievement of our officers and their families without their support it would not be possible. The Commission thanks them so much for their service and dedication

Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy stated there has been recent posting on both Social-Media and the Press regarding conditions at Donahue Park in Pawcatuck. The Commission is aware of the importance of Donahue Park to the Stonington Community, especially to the Pawcatuck neighborhood. The Commission has been working on conditions in the park in conjunction with the Board of Selectwoman and the Police Department. Last summer Chief Stewart put together a coalition of individuals to improve conditions not only in the park but in our community. Meetings have been held involving our Chaplin Program, Deanna Rushlow our Community Outreach Specialist, Human Services, the New London Shelter, and the Westerly Police Department. Last night the Board of Selectwoman approved a Sunset to Sunrise closure for Donahue Park which will bring it in line with the times of other Town Parks. This will certainly help with some of the issues, however, is not the total answer. I encourage any town resident who has this type of concern to bring the issue to the attention of the Police Department or the Board of Police Commissioners. We have asked Chief DelGrosso to provide a report on what we are doing on this issue during his report later in the meeting.

2. Remarks of the Public

None.

3. Correspondence

a. Lawrence & Memorial Hospital Construction Notice

Construction is taking place from April 20, 2022 through July 20, 2022 at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital at the site located in the ambulance courtyard which will require staging in the area and at times it will be closed off at the ambulance parking spot closest to the building. Lawrence and Memorial Hospital would like to thank the community for their patience during construction.

4. Old Business

a. Pine Point School Request for Exemption from Town of Stonington Noise Ordinance

Present is Pat St. Germain, Associate Director at Pine Point School. Motion was made by Chairman O'Shaughnessy to exempt for one hour time change on Saturday, May 21, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m. from 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Robert Elmer and Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

b. Planning & Zoning Site Plan & Groundwater Permit Application – 392 Liberty St.,

Karen Hanson is present real estate office. No traffic concerns. Chief DelGrosso does not have any issues with traffic as it's a busy area but has the same use as it had before. Motion to pass along comments to Planning & Zoning Commission that the Police Commission sees no issues with the traffic, parking or safety with this application as presented. Motion made by Vice Chairman Elmer. Seconded by Commissioner Turner. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit application – Thirty Eight, LLC 38 E. Main St.,

No one in attendance for this application received approval from Planning & Zoning convert two (2) office spaces to an apartment. Discussion on traffic and parking occurred and it was agreed on that the Commission found no issues with the change of use. Motion made by Chairman O'Shaughnessy to pass along comments to Planning & Zoning Commission that the Police Commission sees no issues with the traffic, parking or safety with this application as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Turner. All in favor, motion approved.

5. New Business

a. Mystic Seaport Shuttle Service Signs.

Shannon McKenzie, Vice President of Media Operations at the Seaport is present and passed out an updated pamphlet to all of the Committee members offering paid parking and shuttle rides in our South part of our parking lot. describing the Museum shuttle bus signs and type of bus that will shuttle passengers to and from the designated pick up and drop off areas. Signs are to be placed on Seaport property. The cost of the shuttle per day is \$10 per person. Passengers using the shuttle visiting the Museum will receive a \$5 discount on their entry fee with proof of purchase of a museum ticket. Motion made by Chairman O'Shaughnessy to request a motion to approve request from Mystic Seaport Museum to designate downtown shuttle parking slot just South of Lis Bake Shop and

request that the Town Highway mark the shuttle bus stop. Seconded by Commissioner Elmer and Chairman O'Shaughnessy. All in favor, motion approved.

b. St. Michael Church Feast of the Assumption Friday Night Procession

Motion made to approve the route for Assumption Friday Night Procession on August 12th by Commissioner Elmer. Seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Planning & Zoning Subdivision Application – South Anguilla Road.

Brandon & Cynthia Flack purchased farm land to use a portion of the property as their primary residence and to subdivide twenty (20) acres of open space development. Future plans to donate fifty percent (50%) of the open space parcel to a land trust. Two lots will share one driveway each driveway will require 200 feet of site line. There will be a total of eight lots, seven of which will be subdivided. Motion made by Chairman O'Shaughnessy sees no issues with traffic, parking or safety with this application as presented. Seconded by Chairman Elmer and Commissioner Turner. All in favor, motion approved.

d. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application – Whaler's Inn 20 E. Main St.

Bill Sweeney, Esq. of TCORS is here to represent Whalers Inn RE, LLC on discussion of completed off street parking lot dedicated for patrons of the Whaler's Inn and exterior renovations and change of use of existing mixed-use building from five (5) approved apartments to five (5) hotel suites. The first floor has three retail spaces to be converted to hotel office/lobby permitted by Special Permit and are scheduled to go before the Planning & Zoning Commission in June pursuant to Section 4.1.3.8. PZ0671SUP (approving mixed use w/5 residential units. PZ101SPA (approving parking lot and landscaping). Commissioner Turner commented he is happy to support it as it is a beautiful place. Motion to Planning & Zoning no issues with traffic or parking with improvements. Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to pass along comments to Planning & Zoning that the Police Commission sees no issues with the traffic, parking or safety with this application as presented. Motion made by Vice Chairman Elmer. Seconded by Lisa Turner. All in favor. Motion approved.

e. Planning & Zoning Special Use & Ground Water Protection Permit Application –

Brookside Associates *COMMENTS NEEDED* Bill Sweeney, Esq I'm joined here with project engineer Tim Thompson traffic engineer and Bill Baines discussed their plans to construct office space, mixed use, and affordable housing in the area of South Broad St. Brookside Lane. Brookside Lane Apartments will consist of 100 Units on the project, 33 studio units, 43 one-bedroom units, 24 two-bedroom units. Of the 100 units thirty percent (30%) of them will be affordable housing units, 70 units will be market rate with no income restrictions. The site is in front of Brookside Village, it is about two-and-one-half (2.5) acres, it is accessible directly from S. Broad Street. We also have a dedicated curb cut for the project and cross access over to the Brookside Lane access as well. We have 146 parking spaces. one (1) parking space per unit entire site consists of 18 acres

Chris (name unknown) discussion of 18 acres creating a subdivision 2.5 acre and 1.5 utility storage drainage and access to the site. Key feature is an existing bus loop which runs parallel to S. Broad St. used by transit buses, First Student buses, Pawcatuck Fire

Emergency vehicle ladder trucks, student pickup vehicles allowing these vehicles to loop off of Route 1/S. Broad St. DOT curb cut is pending.

Tim Thompson spoke on the traffic study on signalized intersections along the South Broad Street corridor spanning down to Greenhaven up to W. Broad corridor on the east end. on discussion. Traffic counts and data collection done in February in 2020 right in the heat of Covid so we actually noted a 60% increase in traffic. We also collected crash data from the police department, reviewed for any trends we could find on safety issues. We projected our future traffic conditions out five years. Study revealed limited streets were included in the study. Chairman O'Shaughnessy questioned why the study eliminated traffic coming and going on W. Broad St., Pequot Trail, Extrusion Dr, Spruce Meadows and Donkin Donuts, intersections turning points. Commissioner Coan stated the traffic is backed up during the week on S. Broad St. at 7:15 a.m. and Davis Stannard employees and students trying to get to school are complaining they cannot get to their destination on time. Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked the Captain DelGrosso and Chief if they had any questions. No questions. Motion made by Chairman O'Shaughnessy to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning Commission that the police commission is determined to wait until the State Traffic Authority produces the certificate for the major traffic study, until that time we are not ready to make a decision on this project. Motion made. Seconded by Commissioner Bates and Commissioner Turner. All in favor, motion approved.

6. Traffic

a. E-Mail Re: Speeders on Mary Hall Road *VOTE NEEDED*

Chairman O'Shaughnessy commented this is an ongoing traffic issue. Chief DelGrosso stated patrolled Mary Hall Road and Greenhaven Road to River Road, and a speed sign to collect data was placed to determine the time of day, direction speeders were traveling day of the week to narrow down which direction had more issues. Recommended to table to next meeting. Motion made by Chairman O'Shaughnessy to table to June 9 meeting to discuss data collected by the speed sign during May 1 through May 4 seconded by Commissioner Elmer. Motion by Commissioner Turner. All in favor, motion approved.

b. E-Mail Re: Pequot Trail

Seth Hoyt of 24 Elm Street stated his concerns of a blind-spot on Pequot Trail and requested schoolbus signs to be posted on both sides of the road in this area. Mr. Hoyt stated he was here to confirm his son-in-law, Chris Fondulas' request for a speed trap be placed on Pequot Trail as well. Chief DelGrosso stated they are going to place a speed sign to collect data of speeders and that officers are patrolling the road. No vote needed on this.

c. E-Mail Re: Suggestion for Rotary at Intersection of Route 1 & Route 2

No discussion.

d. Chairman O'Shaughnessy commented on correspondence not on the on the agenda about speeders on Stillman Ave. Chief DelGrosso stated that there have been complaints speeders/motorcycles on Stillman Ave. passing thru into Westerly. The Stonington Police Department has placed speed signs to collect data on the day and night traffic issue and noticed a great deal of Rhode Island license plates, and the Westerly Police Department

is also working with the Stonington Police Department on this issue and have also placed cruisers out there and this has slowed down traffic in the area.

7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, April 14, 2022 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, April 14, 2022 regular Meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Coan. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief

a. Budget Report

Chief DelGrosso stated their budget is over on overtime portion of the budget and go to the Board of Finance and have forty thousand dollars moved over from salaries to overtime. The police department is over budget because they are short three officers and officers are working a lot of overtime to compensate for the shortage and there are a large portion of events coming up, required training and vacations, etc.

b. Monthly Report

Donahue Park- The Stonington Police Department and Human Services have had two meetings with the First Selectwoman and have an action plan for the park itself with Captain Olson, Lieutenant Schneider and Lieutenant Peckham. Chief DelGrosso spoke of his action plan for the park. Captain Olson, Lieutenant Schneider and Lieutenant Peckham will continue to work with Human Services and officers to keep them informed of the services that are available. Patrol officers park their vehicles to observe the patrons visiting the park and are very good at doing that and also incorporating the businesses as well as lighting conditions.

c. Special Events Schedule

Chief DelGrosso commented that Natalie is doing a fantastic job keeping track of the events from where we were and keeping us informed of upcoming events. Good job. Discussion on Marathon and 10K action plan is set up. Stoneridge residents are aware of the race. Command post will be set up in the Hilton parking lot again and a bomb dog will be present. Agility test for new applicants will be held on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. at the high school by the Stonington Police Department and an ambulance will be on site.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Letter Re: St. Michael Church feast of the Assumption Sunday Procession


Chief DelGrosso and Captain Olson approve of route scheduled for Friday, August 12, 2022. Motion made by Commissioner Elmer. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Letters Re: Officers Hage & Hewes – Good Job

10. Adjourn

Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Elmer, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


6/13/2022

Bill Turner
Secretary