

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 9, 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
Commissioner Patricia Coan
Chief Jay DelGrosso & Captain Todd Olson
Absent: Commissioners Bill Turner & Lisa Tepper Bates

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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

Chairman stated with the recent school shooting in Texas I want to assure our community that the Stonington Police Department and the Board of Police Commissioners have always been concerned with Student Safety in our schools.

Well before the recent school shootings the Department in conjunction with the Stonington Education Department have developed plans and conducted training to meet these types of situations.

Some of these plans and training were developed when Darren Stewart was our Police Chief. The board has asked the Chief to provide us with a broad overview during his report later in our meeting.

2. Remarks of the Public

Present tonight is Dave Ryan resident at 8 Bay Street in Mystic inquiring as to how residents can reach out to the Commission to address concerns that the community has regarding Mystic Seaport, the small park and traffic. On discussion Chairman O'Shaughnessy directed Mr. Ryan to make arrangements to discuss his concerns with Captain Olson. Captain Olson obtained Mr. Ryan's contact information during the meeting.

Also, present tonight is William Coyle property owner of 22 E. Main Street and 32 Willow Street located in Mystic with complaints of difficulty getting in and out of his driveway due to traffic, and the fact that Cottrell Street is a one-way street. Mr. Coyle showed the board a photo he had taken on his cell phone of vehicles parked on the sidewalk on East Main Street that were parked in the Grass and Bone restaurant parking lot. Mr. Coyle stated this is a safety issue which is causing pedestrians to have to walk in the street on East Main Street in front of the Grass and Bone. Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated it is an ongoing concern and the commission along with the Police Department certainly will take his comments into consideration on the issues and thanked him for his comments.

3. Correspondence

a.. Event Request: River Glow *VOTE NEEDED*

Present is Lisa Konicki and Grace Lund, Events and Office Coordinator on behalf of Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce regarding the River Glow event on August 6, 2022 (rain date August 7th) Ms. Lund stated last year's event brought in approximately \$600,000 in revenue to the community.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Elmer to approve River Glow Event to be held on August 6, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

b. Event Request: Pup Fest 2022 *VOTE NEEDED*

Present is Michelle Cady on behalf of Pup Fest 2022 to be held at Wadawanuck Square on Saturday, October 1, 2022 from 11am to 3pm. The event will have tents placed on the green for the community to browse for treats, crafters, training, grooming, adoptions, rescues, demonstrations, etc. A parade will take place at 1pm and go on for approximately 45 minutes. Ms. Cady requested if a K9 and Police Officer would volunteer to lead the parade and do demonstrations on the green. She also has a request for a fire truck with a dalmatian to be present at the end of the parade. Prior to tonight's meeting Ms. Cady received zoning approval from the Borough through Warden Jeffrey Callahan. On discussion Commissioner Coan confirmed the time frame of the event and Commissioner Elmer on the number of participants she expects to attend the event. Ms. Cady estimates 300 people and mentioned there will be no radio advertising only flyers and social media announcements of the event. Chief DelGrosso commented Officer Palmer is our K9 officer and he will reach out to him for his availability for the event. Motion made by Commissioner Coan to approve as Commission and Stonington Police Department sees no issues with traffic, parking or safety with this application as presented. Seconded by Vice Chairman Elmer. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Event Request: Stonington Borough Art Walk *VOTE NEEDED*

Present is Sandra Alexander on behalf of Stonington Borough's 4th Annual Art Walk to be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 10am to 3pm on request for a police officer and barricades to block traffic on Water Street from Pearl Street to Church Street, and to allow tents for the artists to be set up down the center of the street in front of storefronts for the event. Chairman O'Shaughnessy requested a motion to approve this event contingent on notifying residents on Water Street of the art walk event. Motion made by Chairman Elmer to approve as Commission and Stonington Police Department sees no issues with traffic, parking or safety with this application as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

d. Event Request: Mystic Art Festival *VOTE NEEDED*

No one is present tonight. Tabled to next month to July 14 meeting.

e. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit application: Evangelos Kouloularis (Atlantic Associates of Stonington, LLC) *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Present is Ted Ladwig, Esquire representing Atlantic Associates of Stonington, LLC on request for approval to change the number of the seating at Stonington Pizza from 52 indoor seats to 42 indoor seats and add 33 seasonal outdoor seats in the drive-thru space used by a former business.

Motion made by Chairman Elmer sees no issues with traffic, parking or safety with this application as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

4. Old Business

a. Donahue Park

Chief DelGrosso commented on residents' perception of possible illegal drug activity in the park. Patrol study from May 3, 2022 through June 3, 2022 was conducted of the park and there were no narcotic issues noted. The Stonington Police Department will continue to monitor the park.

5. Traffic

a. E-Mail Re: Clara Drive *POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chief DelGrosso stated the center lines on Clara Drive are not in the center of the road and the Town Crew will have to correct it.

b. E-Mail Re: Mary Hall Road Speeding

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated the issues are ongoing and being addressed.

c. E-Mail Re: Speeding on Lantern Hill Road

Chairman O'Shaughnessy commented that the Chief has no contact information for the specific comments made by the public regarding Foxwoods employees and customers speeding on Lantern Hill Road.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Coan to approve the minutes from Thursday, April 14, 2022 regular meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Chairman Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

6. Report of the Chief

a. Budget Report

Chief DelGrosso states the finance budget line items overall are in good shape. Wellness program is in progress. No questions on budget.

b. Monthly Report

Chief DelGross discussed May, 2022 Monthly report.

c. Special Events Schedule

Chief DelGrosso commented the events are on schedule with no issues. Memorial Day Parade went very well. The Chief mentioned he was in one parade and patrolled the other.

e. E-Mail Re: "Today and This Year"-Deans Mill School

Chief DelGrosso commented on the positive emails received from parents of kids who attend Deans Mill School for the continuing collaboration and support for students, the school and community. The Chief discussed High Five Friday, Dare program and scheduled patrol checks in schools.

f. Email re: Outstanding Job-Officer Joseph Saunders

Chief DelGrosso commented on the positive feedback received from Stonington Arms regarding Officer Joseph Saunders' scam workshop presentation. The Commission would like to thank you Officer Saunders for a job well done.

g. Dispatcher William Palmer Retirement *VOTE NEEDED*

We thank you for your tenure of 18 years of service at the Stonington Police Department and to the community. Motion made by Commissioner Coan to accept offer and congratulations from the Board of Commissioners for a job well done. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Elmer. All in favor, motion approved.

7. Discussion regarding Public Access to Accident Reports – Lt. Schneider

Lieutenant Schneider stated the department's plan to implement an online quick and easy way for the public to obtain accident reports online commencing on July 1st, 2022.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Elmer to accept comments made by Chief DelGrosso. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Consent Agenda

Letter Re: St. Michael Church Feast of the Assumption Friday Evening Procession Approval

Chief DelGrosso stated letter dated May 25, 2022 was sent to St. Michael Church approving procession scheduled for Friday, August 12, 2022.

a. Letter/Paperwork Re: Stonington Historical Society Fourth of July Parade

Chief DelGrosso commented on letter dated June 1, 2022 from the Stonington Police Department approving the Fourth of July Parade and that they will provide traffic control contingent on approval from the Borough.

b. Highway Use Permit: Back the Blue Southeastern CT 9/11 Motorcycle Ride

Chief DelGrosso commented on the letter received from the State of Connecticut dated May 24, 2022 regarding the utilization of State Police escorts required on both ends of the procession on State highways to be used may include Routes 117, 214, 2, 1, 215, 349, I-95, 32 and 641 was approved for the motorcycle ride.

9. Adjourn

At 6:05 p.m., Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Coan, All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Coan", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Respectfully Submitted,