

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, December 8th, 2022 at 5:00p.m.
STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS
173 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PAWCATUCK, CT 06379**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy & Vice Chairman Bill Turner
Commissioner Patricia Coan, Commissioner Richard Balestracci
Chief Jay DelGrosso, Deputy Chief Todd Olson, Captain Bryan Schneider

1.Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm. Chairman O'Shaughnessy started by thanking the first responders for their job well done in response to the Mystic Fire.

2. Remarks of the Public

Jessica Mancarella provided a statement as follows.

"Hello, my name is Jessica Mancarella. I am a Pawcatuck resident, nurse, and the Trauma Program Manager at L+M Hospital in New London. There have been no less than 3 serious bicycle accidents with injuries at Pequot trail and Whitehall Avenue which poses a safety concern. A quick background is L+M hospital cares for people who have experienced injuries across southeastern CT. My role is to be a resource to the doctors and nurses who care for these patients, and with Dr. Stephanie Joyce the Trauma Medical Director, to increase the safety and health of our community by decreasing injuries that can lead to death and disability through partnerships in the community we serve. I analyze data for injury patterns and look to address areas of opportunity to increase safety through educational outreach such as stop the bleed. The first responders and healthcare workers have noticed a trend of serious injuries at this intersection, and we wanted to bring it to your attention. A sign at the terminal area of Pequot trail where it drops in to Whitehall Avenue could warn bikers of the danger of this intersection to increase safety. Thank you."

3. New Business

- a. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: WinnDevelopment Company ***COMMENTS NEEDED***

William Sweeney attended to discuss minor modifications being made to the previously approved Affordable Housing Project. They will be reducing the size of the building and reducing the number of units within the building. There will be a new exterior design. The plans will no longer include 3-bedroom units. The amount of parking spaces planned before will remain the same which will increase the parking ratio. The focus was that the traffic flow of the development and how traffic will remain safe and efficient. Less units will mean less traffic. Sweeney shared his hopes that the project would receive another positive recommendation from the board for the project. The projects traffic engineer also spoke about the improvements they would be keeping even though there would be less traffic. A crosswalk will be moved, but the movement will not cause a loss of street parking. Sight lines will also be

improved. Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked what the motivation was for changing the scale of the building. Sweeney shared it was changed to focus on specific communities with need and a change of funding.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to recommend the project to the planning and zoning board. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor motion approved.

A concerned citizen and business owner spoke following the motion to share what he viewed as a disingenuous presentation of why people disagree with the project. He shared his issues with the project do not relate to the Affordable Housing aspect of it, but instead the strain it would place on the area in regards to traffic and parking. He expressed an interest in seeing documentation showing the state was in agreement as mentioned.

b. Mystic Half Marathon and 10k *VOTE NEEDED*

Josh Miller spoke requesting vote for approval for the Mystic Half Marathon and 10k. The operation would be the same as years past it would start at 7:00am and finish at 10:00am. Deputy Chief Olson shared that they have no concerns and that the Hartford Marathon Foundation is a top-notch organization to work with. It is a large impact on the PD, but the PD is aware and prepared for it.

A motion to approve event as submitted subject to town insurance requirements and PD safety requirements was made by Vice Chairman Turner. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor motion approved.

c. Kelley's Pace Road Races 2023 *VOTE NEEDED*

Josh Anderson Spoke to gain permission to conduct three road races in 2023. Chief DelGrosso shared he had no concerns with the events.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy moved to accept the event as submitted subject to town insurance requirements and PD safety requirements. Seconded by Vice Chairman Turner. All in favor motion approved.

d. E-Mail Re: Hillside Avenue, Pawcatuck, CT *VOTE NEEDED*

Richard Sylvestre reached out to express concerns with the fire hydrant being blocked on Hillside Avenue. The board has agreed they can mark the fire hydrant more clearly to make sure people are aware its there.

e. Letter Re: Wellness Fun Run Walk/Stroll 3k *VOTE NEEDED*

Sue Fage came forward to request permission to hold a Wellness Fun Run Walk/Stroll 3k. The event had originally been approved for October but had to be pushed off.

Motion to approve the event as submitted previously by Vice Chairman Turner. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor motion approved.

f. Olde Mistick Village Festival of Lights *VOTE NEEDED*

At this time Deputy Chief Olson stepped away and allowed Captain Schneider to take his place on the board.

William Sweeney spoke again on behalf of the Martin Olson Irrevocable Trust. The festival of lights is a tradition on private property, but it is understood that it impacts the public roadway. Chief DelGrosso asked for someone to appear before the board to begin a new level of collaboration. Annie shared that village events aren't ticketed, they don't serve alcohol, and are on private property. They would like clarification on when they would have to appear before the board for an event. Chief DelGrosso shared that he along with the Deputy Chief and Captain analyzed all of the events for the upcoming year to identify the events that cause significant strain on the department. This way all parties know in advance what the needs and expectations will be in regards to the department needing to man the event. The village has taken steps such as barricading the state property that people were previously parking on that created such an issue during the garlic festival, and are open to the department ticketing as needed. To alleviate some of the traffic on public roadways the village has not placed lighting on the main upper road (Coogan Boulevard) and employees will not be taking up parking spots that could be used for the public. It was also mentioned that weather plays a huge role in turnout for events. Chief DelGrosso explained his reasoning for requiring four officers to be hired for the upcoming event due to not hearing from the village early enough, so he was forced to make a best estimate based off prior years turnout. Chief DelGrosso expressed that the village can hold any events they want, but if they expect an event to have a bigger turnout to loop in the police department.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to approve the event subject to the police departments safety requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor motion approved.

4. Correspondence

a. Letter Re: Passing Zone Route 201/ Olivia Lane

Chairman O'Shaughnessy shared the chief had some additional comments. The Department of Transportation wants the number of houses in the area and number of cars on average that park at the nature preserve. DOT also wants proof that Olivia Lane has become a town road.

b. Letter Re: Olde Mistick Village Events

Will be handled with Chris Regan.

c. OSATA Response on Brookside Project

The board received a response from Ryan Pothering in regards to the letter sent about the traffic study done for the Brookside Project. The letter will be added to the file.

5. Old business

a. Mystic Seaport Hotel and Restaurant *DISCUSSION ONLY- NO ONE WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE*

The board will be sending a letter to OSATA highlighting flaws discussed at the previous meeting with the traffic study as well as a letter to who conducted the original traffic study.

6. Traffic

a. Pedestrian Safety Sign Permit Applications

Applications for Review of Encroachment Permit submitted. Description of project as follows.

"Place 1 sign reading 'YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALK' in crosswalk in center of Route ____"

Locations include Route 27 at Rossi Street, Route 27 at Hinckley Street, Route 27 approximately 10' from corner of Pleasant Street, 60 Liberty Street (Route 2) in front of St. Michael Church & old St. Michael School, 131 West Broad Street (Route 1), Route 1 (West Broad Street) 100 yards EAST of Route 2.

b. E-Mail Re: Request to Update Current Parking Ordinance

The Chief is submitting a request to update the current parking ordinance. Changes not voted on.

c. Letter Re: "Rotary" Near CVS in Mystic ***MAY BE IN ATTENDANCE. IF NOT, PLEASE CALL AT PHONE NUMBER LISTED ON LETTER***

Michael Roberts came to the meeting to gain clarification on the "Rotary" in Mystic by the CVS. Chairman O'Shaughnessy shared that by definition it is a traffic circle. Deputy Chief Olson shared that confusion over the designation has not been leading to many accidents, but the record department can pull and see.

7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, December 8th, 2022 *VOTE NEEDED*

Motion made by Vice Chairman Turner to approve the minutes from the Thursday, November 10th, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Deputy Chief Olson gave the report of the chief. The budget is currently on track no issues at this time.

b. Monthly Report

No significant trends or areas of concern.

c. Special Events Schedule

The department is taking a closer look to see needs of each event and becoming partners with local organizations for events coming forward.

d. Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Salary Budget

9. Consent Agenda

a. Thank You Letters: Promotional Ceremony

Chief DelGrosso wrote thank you letters to Peter Armstrong, Rebecca Shea, Joe Michael, Commissioner O'Shaughnessy, Commissioner James C. Rovella, Senator Heather Somers, State Representative Gregory Howard, and Susette Tibus. He wanted to thank them all for their help and support in holding the departments promotional ceremony.

b. Thank You Letter for Donuts for Department

Chief DelGrosso thanked Linda Whinnem for bringing in donuts for officers and staff members.

c. Thank You Letter: Donation

Chief DelGrosso thanked Robert C. Richards & Suzanne C. Kissell for their generous donation to the department.

d. Thank You Letter: Lt. Marley

Chief DelGrosso thanked Lt. Marley for his compassion and concern in a time of need and actions that were above the call for duty.

e. Thank You Letter: Officer Marsh

Chief DelGrosso thanked Office Marsh for his actions and showing the community how professional the department is.

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to accept the report of the chief and the consent agenda. Seconded by Patricia Coan. All in favor motion approved.

10. Adjourn

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Coan seconded. All in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Tepper Bates" followed by a stylized monogram or set of initials.

Lisa Tepper Bates
Secretary