

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, January 12th, 2023 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 Lisa Tepper Bates, 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.

2. Remarks of the Public

None

3. New Business

a. Olde Mistick Village Chowderfest

Annie Hettick presented the plan for the Olde Mistick Village Chowderfest. It will take place February 25th, 2023 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. It will primarily run as an internal event aside from one vendor that will be located outside on the green. Proceeds from the event will go to Always Home a charity that works to find families safe, secure housing with the supportive services necessary to achieve long-term housing stability. All proceeds aside from the cost of the event goes to Always Home. Chairman O'Shaughnessy thanked Annie Hettick for coming before the commission, and informed her that the commission sent a letter requesting no parking signs on the I95 on ramp to mitigate the issues that have arisen during events. Vice Chairman Turner asked how much the event has made in the past. Annie Hettick shared that the last time the event took place they raised 20k of which 9k went to Always Home. Their last event had some supply issues the day of which resulted in last minute supply purchases, but typically 75% of the proceeds go to Always Home. Chief DelGrosso shared that the Chowderfest event was classified as an A level event. The only concern would be parking, but Annie Hettick did share that volunteers would be directing parking to avoid having cars attempting to park on the on ramp. Chief DelGrosso did not require the hiring of any officers for the event, but did ask that the department be notified immediately if issues arise.

b. Mystic Irish Parade *VOTE NEEDED*

Chairman O'Shaughnessy opened discussion on the Mystic Irish Parade by sharing that the event has occurred many times with no issue. The parade would be the same time frame and route, just a different date.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to accept the Mystic Irish Parade as submitted following the requirements of the town's insurance and the Stonington Police Department safety requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Blessing of the Fleet Events ***VOTE NEEDED***

Blessing of the Fleet Committee attended the meeting to request permission for the Blessing of the Fleet 5k on July 27th at 6:00pm and the actual Blessing of the Fleet on July 30th. It is the 7th annual Blessing of the fleet which has been running as a fairly well-oiled machine in previous years.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to accept the Blessing of the Fleet Events as submitted following the requirements of the town's insurance and the Stonington Police Department safety requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

d. Celebration of Black History Month Event ***VOTE NEEDED-AWAITING FURTHER INFORMATION ***

Bruce Flax from the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce came to request approval for an event celebrating Black History Month on February 11th. They will be asking the Flag Committee for permission to raise a Black History month flag which would be followed by a performance of the national anthem and a march over the bridge up to the Union Baptist Church. If the Flag Committee denies the request there is a back up plan to walk with a banner instead. Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked what the expected participant turnout is. Bruce Flax shared they are expecting a couple hundred. They have contacted the local schools for participation. Chairman O'Shaughnessy also inquired on how the event plans on keeping participants out of the roadway during the march portion of the event. Bruce Flax asked for recommendations from the board. Chief DelGrosso explained the department could hold traffic depending on the number of participants. The event would need an operational plan but that takes time to develop. Bruce Flax stated he would keep in touch to help with the operational plan development.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to accept the Celebration of Black History Month Event as submitted following the requirements of the town's insurance and the Stonington Police Department safety requirements and additional event plans. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

e. Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser Event ***VOTE NEEDED ***

Daniel Farrar came to the commission again to request permission to use Deans Mill School and surrounding area for use in a 4-mile fun run/walk fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis. The loop for the race can cut across without needing the use of Route 1. They expected turnout is between 100-200 people. It will be capped at 200 in order to not run out of parking at the school. Chairman O'Shaughnessy informed Daniel Farrar that there is town paperwork and insurance paperwork that will be needed for the event. Deputy Chief Olson offered assistance with getting all the details worked out. Chief DelGrosso requested where the events food trucks would be located. Daniel Farrar shared they plan on having them on the Deans Mill property.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to accept the Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser Event as submitted following the requirements of the town's insurance and the Stonington Police Department safety requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

f. Planning & Zoning Master Plan Zone Change, Site Plan, & Costal Area Management Review Applications: Mystic Seaport Museum ***COMMENTS NEEDED***

Chairman O'Shaughnessy opened discussion by stating this portion is informational and no vote is needed. Chad Frost shared the Mystic Seaport Museum-Master Plan Map Amendment Application and project descriptions. The projects are numbered below.

1. Boat Hall relocation/expansion within Rossie Mill- The Museum is proposing relocating the Boat Hall within Rossie Mill and making a new entrance to the Boat Hall space. The revised area would now be 37,000sf but will have the same use.
2. New Special Wall signs/Temporary Exhibition Banners- A banner on Rossie Mill, the contents would change to promote current and future exhibits.
3. Temporary Restrooms- During construction of the new hotel the current public bathrooms will be unavailable. The museum is looking to install temporary restrooms that would be connected to sewer and water.
4. Membership patio Improvements- current patio and shade structure in disrepair and not ADA accessible. Will be slightly enlarged and reconstructed with ADA compliant connections to adjoining buildings and surrounding amenities.
5. Relocated Performance Stage- Existing stage will be replaced with new structure of similar size, and rotated for performance and river viewing.
6. Print Shop Accessibility Ramp- Add a handicap ramp to the side of the Print Shop to allow exhibit space to be ADA accessible.
7. Toy Boats Building Accessibility Ramp- Add a handicap ramp to the side of the Toy Boats Building to allow exhibit space to be ADA accessible.
8. Youth Team Building Area- Project creates low ropes and balance beams to allow for team building activities to be used by visiting school groups.
9. Water Taxi- Project will create a public water taxi (with or without admission) roundtrip to downtown. The hope is to alleviate traffic.
10. Dunton Restoration Area- Three storage structures will be removed and replaced with a concrete pad suitable for supporting the Dunton throughout restoration.
11. Main Entrance Ingress/Egress Improvements- Project to improve the main entrance experience for entry and exit.
12. Anchor Bake Shop outdoor tables- The Anchor Bake Shop modified its outdoor seating in 2021 to have more smaller tables due to COVID. The museum retains the right to provide up to 38 exterior seats for the Bake Shop in the future.
13. Seaport Pocket Park- Project will create a pocket park on land owned by Museum on the corner of Greenmanville and Isham Street to provide a place of respite for pedestrians.
14. Paid Downtown Parking & Shuttle- Project converted the southern half of the southern parking lot to paid parking with a shuttle to Downtown.
15. Rossie Mill Roof Replacement- Project will replace the roof on the northeast portion of the mill building.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy shared concerns with the projects creating more pedestrian traffic on an already congested Route 27. Chad Frost shared that the museum expects no additional pedestrian traffic with the projects. There are no parking changes being made or changes to the lights in the area. Commissioner Tepper Bates thanked them for their work and creativity with combating the traffic issue. Chief DelGrosso shared that there is lots of traffic on Route 27 and light changes to the intersection would not affect only the seaport area but the entire stretch of road. Chad Frost shared data that the attendance to the seaport is declining so increased traffic is not solely caused by the seaport. Chief DelGrosso added that the data presented does not factor in bursts of traffic caused by events in the area that are not daily occurrences. Chad Frost added that management of the lights is an issue they would like to work on with the Stonington Police Department to contact DOT to find a solution. He shared that

DOT has not paid homage to the area and the impact it has. And while the lights are not a part of any of the current projects there is an interest going forward. Chief DelGrosso shared that he is meeting with a DOT representative in the following week to find out their upcoming projects.

g.) Planning & Zoning Site Plan & Groundwater Protection Permit Application: Amera-UZ, LLC

COMMENTS NEEDED

Susan Marquardt came before the commission to discuss retail convenience store with a drive-thru window construction application. It was approved in 2006 but now needs to be in line with current planning and zoning regulations. Chairman O'Shaughnessy shared that the sight line for the location is currently not good, but looks like there are things that can be done to improve it. Commissioner Coan asked if there had been a traffic study with information regarding an increase in traffic. Susan Marquardt shared they had an additional 24 trips at peak hours, but that it would not affect the level of service. Commissioner Tepper Bates asked the Chief if he had any specific concerns with traffic in the area. Chief DelGrosso shared he had no concerns.

h.) South Broad Realty, LLC (Meghan Delaporta)- Special Use Permit application

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to put South Broad Realty, LLC (Meghan Delaporta) on the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

A Special Use permit application for a full liquor permit for on-site consumption in existing restaurant. The restaurant is being converted to a breakfast/lunch restaurant. They are asking for the full liquor license for future endeavors, but there will not be an area for anyone to linger and drink. It is instead intended for events such as bridal showers, brunches, and Mother's Day events. The seating is going to stay the same at 24 seats, and the parking lot has 11 spots.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to pass to planning and zoning with no concerns for safety, parking, or traffic. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

4. Correspondence

None

5. Old business

None

6. Traffic

a. Concerns of Elimination of Parking for Businesses on Cogswell Street- Mr. Nall

Tom Nall came to the commission to share that currently there are no issues for customers, but those in the area don't want to see issues down the road that risk the businesses losing parking. Chairman O'Shaughnessy shared that there are currently no requests or plans that involve a loss of parking on Cogswell Street. The only changes that may be made would be in an effort to keep people from parking within 25 feet of the intersection in the area as it creates a hazard.

b. Request for Dead End of No Outlet Sign-Corner of Richmond Lane & Hatch Street, Mystic

VOTE NEEDED

The commission has no questions or problems with the request.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to ask the highway department to place a Dead End or No Outlet Sign on the corner of Richmond Lane & Hatch Street. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Encroachment Permit for Pedestrian Crossing Signs

Chief DelGrosso shared that pedestrian crossing signs will be placed in Downtown Pawcatuck and Route 27. The signs will sit on the double yellow lines in the middle of the road. The department has been granted the permits and will be purchasing the signs. The department will work with the town and highway department to get the signs placed as required by DOT. Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked for a vote to put the signs out on a trial period. Vice Chairman Turner questioned if the signs are reflective. They are reflective. Commissioner Coan asked what the price of the signs are which is not known at this time.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to coordinate with the town and highway department to place pedestrian crosswalk signs on a trial run. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

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

Commissioner Coan requested one change to the December 8th, 2022 meeting minutes. On page 2, section e, sentence 2 the word vent will be changed to event.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Turner to approve the minutes with the requested change from the Thursday, December 8th, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor motion approved.

Before moving into the Report of the Chief there was one final traffic update. An ordinance was changed giving authority to tow vehicles in a right of way that are causing a hazard, and allowing the price of parking tickets to go from \$25.00 to \$50.00.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

The budget is on schedule. There is a chance on going over on the pound but overall, it is in good shape.

b. Monthly Report

No significant trends or areas of concern.

c. Yearly Statistic Report

No significant trends or areas of concern.

d. Special Events Schedule

The Chief, Deputy Chief, and Captain are working on revamping and classifying all events and trying to get that information out in January. There is also a goal to allow more emailing in the event process to make things easier and require less in person signing of paperwork.

e. Olivia Lane/Route 201 Removal of Passing Zone

The removal of the passing zone was approved after Chief DelGrosso worked with DOT to answer any questions about the request.

f. Mystic Bascule Bridge Bicyclist Safety Concerns

Bike Stonington is going to have to reapply to the DOT with their Mystic Bascule Bridge requests. DOT attempted to contact the manufacturer with questions they had about the proposed panels and received no response.

g. Letter Re: Request for Signs I95 Northbound On-Ramp Exit 90

As previously mentioned, a letter was sent out requesting no parking signage on the I95 Northbound On-Ramp Exit 90.

h. Letter Re: Request for Sign- Pequot Trail at Whitehall Avenue, Old Mystic

A letter was sent out to DOT requesting signage for Pequot Trail at Whitehall Avenue in Old Mystic.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Letters for Various Donations Received During Christmas Holiday

Those thanked include Maxine Olson, Christos Pizza, Watch Hill Catering, Mei Li, Adrienne & Bill Keicher, Mark Ferrara, and the Castle Family Foundation. The department greatly appreciates the thoughtful and heartfelt donations received during the holiday season. All gift cards were given to the Peer Support Program to be spent appropriately. Donations were also used to purchase a new K-9 officer. Officer Long will be the handler of the department's newest recruit Milo. Captain Schneider shared that Milo came from a very highly recommended breeder, and will be attending a 15-weeks training course.

b. Thank You- St. Michael School Fun Run

A thank you letter was received from the St. Michael School Race Directors thanking the department for its support.

c. E-Mail: Thank You- Officer Powell

10. Adjourn

Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to accept the consent agenda and adjourn. Commissioner Turner seconded. All in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lisa Tepper Bates
Secretary