

June 22, 2015

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Schools Central Office at 8:00 a.m. Present were First Selectman George Crouse, Selectmen Rob Simmons and Selectman Michael Spellman.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Crouse called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

(2) Comments from the Public

None

(3) New Business

Discuss Care of Town and School Fields

- Mr. Crouse read a letter from the State. It stated that the Town of Stonington was in compliance with pesticides on permitted sites by EPA Regulations.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the one company supplying these pesticides was being investigated and hoped we were not buying them from them. He also wanted an explanation of the application log.
- Mr. Riley stated that the school was in compliance and notifications were given to those requesting information.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted to have a discussion with "organics" experts. He stated that the Board agreed this would be a good idea.
- Mr. Crowley stated that he was hesitant about using organics after what happened in North Stonington and Old Saybrook.

(4) Comments from the Public

A parent expressed concern of pesticides use at Deans Mill School.

(5) Comments from the Selectmen

The general observation is that better notification of applications and explanation of log would be helpful to all and the use of the town website and schools' sites was suggested to alert the public.

(6) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

George Crouse
Recording Secretary

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STONINGTON, CT
15 JUL 10 AM 10:47
CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

Simmons Addendum to Selectman Crouse Minutes of June 22, 2015

First Simmons Bullet Point: Mr. Simmons stated that while he had not seen the correspondence from the State of Connecticut dated June 18, 2015, regarding Stonington's Highway Department spraying of herbicides, government assurances were not always convincing. As a Vietnam Veteran he was told that Agent Orange was "perfectly safe" but later that proved not to be the case. He went on to say that parents have a legitimate right to be concerned about their children's exposure to herbicides and they have a "right to know" what was sprayed. For example, a review of the Highway Department's Application Log refers to Primo Maxx and Freehand Herbicides among other products. The labels of both say "Keep out of reach of children" and advise calling a "poison control center or doctor for treatment advice" if clothing or skin is exposed. Mr. Simmons also stated that one supplier, Harrell's of Danbury, selling 30-0-7 with Dimension had been cited by the EPA and CTDEEP for mislabeling their product to remove safety warnings. He asked if Stonington had bought this product from them. He also asked if the certification number of S4157 applied to Stonington Highway Department workers or an outside contractor. Regarding the absence of the Public Works Administrator, he said "This is an important meeting and the one person that should have been here isn't here."

Second Simmons Bullet Point: Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted to have a discussion with "organics" experts and that the Board of Selectmen had previously agreed this would be a good idea. Simmons reiterated that what some call a "firestorm" is really an "issue involving concerned parents" and that "parents have concerns about their kids, their kids health and what exposures they might have." Parents who are not "fully informed on all of this have a right to be a little frightened" and it is the Town's duty to notify parents of the procedures to quell their concerns.

NOTE: This is my recollection of what was said by me during the Special Meeting. Much of this is reported in The Sun article by Tracey C. O'Neill dated June 23, 2015 and titled "Pesticide use in Stonington scrutinized."