

October 26, 2016

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Rob Simmons and Selectman Mike Spellman. Selectwoman Kate Rotella was available by telephone. Also present were members of the public and press.

**(1) Call to Order**

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**(3) Comments from the Public**

None

**(4) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the October 12, 2016 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes as amended.

**(5) Correspondence**

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (which correspondence is attached as Exhibit "A").
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Jeffrey Callahan, Borough of Stonington Warden supporting the plan to develop the parcel on Greenmanville Avenue into a Town park.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. and Mrs. Luigi Fusaro and numerous residents regarding their concerns about the West Vine Street Pond.

**(6) Appointment/Resignation**

**Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint Michael Finiguerra to the IWWC.

**Waterfront Commission**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Bill Bomster and Alene Whipple to the Waterfront Commission.

**(7) Old Business**

**Updates - West Vine Street School Pond/Stillman Avenue Bridge**

- Mr. Tom Curioso, Highway Supervisor updated the Selectmen on the West Vine Street Pond project. He stated that Department of Public Works would be installing a PVC pipe so that it would be one continuous piece instead of concrete piping pieced together.
- Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer updated the Selectmen on the Stillman Avenue Bridge. He stated that the Town of Stonington and the Town of Westerly would develop a Memorandum of Understanding. He also stated that the town would be working with the Connecticut and Rhode Island Department of Transportation. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to work with Westerly in fixing the bridge and developing a maintenance schedule.

**(8) New Business**

**Discussion - Stonington Beautification Committee Projects**

Mr. Dan Oliviero asked permission for the Beautification Committee to install a holiday tree which could either be temporary or permanent at the Veterans Memorial. He also asked if the Department of Public works could string the holiday lights and garland in the gazebo in Donahue Park. Mr. Oliverio also asked if the Department of Public works could paint the light posts in downtown like the Westerly Public Works Department does. It was discussed and was decided that someone would see who would give the permission to paint and fix them. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted

unanimously to move forward with these projects. Mr. Oliverio also stated that the historic willow tree at the intersection of Willow and Broadway needs to come down per Eversource. He stated that when it comes down research will be done to see what should be planted there. Mr. Simmons stated that someone should go to the Mystic Noank Library and do research. Mrs. Rotella stated that letters should be sent to the abutting neighbors. Mr. Oliverio asked for permission to use the T5 truck for the annual schools' cleanup. Mrs. Rotella asked if there was an issue with this request last year. Mr. Simmons stated yes. Mrs. Rotella asked if the issue has been resolved. Mr. Simmons stated yes. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the request.

A motion to add new business – leaf collection – was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to add new business.

Mr. Curioso stated that the leaf collection routes will be posted on the website. Mr. Spellman and Mrs. Rotella both agreed with the idea of using social media to get the word out.

**(9) Comments from the Public**

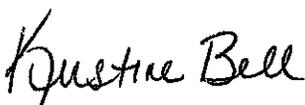
- Mr. Eric Beverly asked if this leaf schedule will work. Mr. Beverly asked how many runs will the Highway Department be doing in one neighborhood.
- Mr. Shaun Mastriani stated that the Beautification Committee isn't necessarily asking to take down the tree they just want to replant the tree.
- Mrs. Maria Fusaro stated that she witnessed kids kicking balls up and down West Vine Street. She stated that there is no fence around the pond and garbage and stuff floats in the water. Mrs. Fusaro stated that there is a safety issue and there should be some kind of fence.

**(10) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Mr. Spellman stated that he hoped Mrs. Rotella was feeling better. He stated that the Selectmen had a meeting with Westerly regarding the Stillman Avenue Bridge and that he hoped the two towns could work across state lines ensuring a maintenance schedule.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he concurred with Mr. Spellman. He stated the Stillman Avenue Bridge is a significant priority. Mr. Simmons stated that he wants to confront the issue in a bipartisan fashion. He stated that it is important to commence this project as it is an important public safety issue.

**(11) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Kristine Bell  
Recording Secretary

EXHIBIT "A"



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

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October 18, 2016

Mr. Robert Simmons  
First Selectman  
152 Elm Street  
Stonington, CT 06378

Dear Selectman Simmons,

Thank you for your letter voicing your concerns regarding a recent quote in the New London Day attributed to Captain Keith Williams from DEEP's Environmental Conservation Police. I am the Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation which oversees the Environmental Conservation Police Division and the Commissioner has asked that I reply on his behalf.

I believe Colonel Overturf, the Director of the Environmental Conservation Police has already contacted you about this issue. Prior to your letter being received, Colonel Overturf had already contacted some of the principals in the Stonington fishing industry to set up a face to face meeting with Keith Williams and himself to discuss the matter and alleviate any concerns they may have. That meeting took place on Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> at Mike Gambardella's office and it is my understanding that it went very well.

The Environmental Conservation Police Division recognizes the importance of having a positive working relationship with the commercial fishing industry. Colonel Overturf was the commanding officer in the Marine District for five years and has been a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Law Enforcement Committee for ten years. He is well aware of the challenges currently facing the highly regulated commercial fishing industry and will work closely with Captain Williams to ensure consistent protection of marine fisheries stocks through education, outreach and enforcement.

The Agency appreciates and respects the long history of commercial fishing in Stonington and the importance it has to the town. Captain Williams will be making an appointment to meet with you in the near future and I am sure that meeting will assure you of his commitment to working with the commercial fishing industry and natural resource protection.

If you have further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, (860)-424-3030.

Sincerely,

*Michael Lambert*  
SELECTMANS OFFICE

OCT 25 2016

Michael Lambert, Chief  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

RECEIVED