DRAFT

STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 12, 2016
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Patrick Moukawsher and Vice Chairman Harry Holt
Commissioners Raymond Trebisacci, Henri Gourd and Bob O'Shaughnessy
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Todd Olson

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Moukawsher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Moukawsher opened the meeting by welcoming Bob O'Shaughnessy to the Commission. Mr. O'Shaughnessy is retired from the Connecticut State Police after 25 years of service. Chairman Moukawsher believes the Commission will benefit from his knowledge and expertise.

2. Remarks of Visitors
None

3. New Business
a. Pequot Cyclists Time Trials *VOTE NEEDED*
David Reed, Pequot Cyclists
Mr. Reed informed the Commission that the Pequot Cyclists Time Trials is a member's only event for all ages. He also noted some changes this year. They have moved the start/finish area so there is a better line of sight and have also acquired new signs which read: Cycling Event in Progress, Caution I.M.O.P.M. which stands for In Memory of Pete Murphy. They intend to put the signs at intersections along the route. Chairman Moukawsher asked if the signs would be attended. Mr. Reed responded that the signs will not be attended. Commissioner Gourd asked if they are free standing and Mr. Reed replied that they are free standing. The Chief informed Mr. Reed that the signs cannot be placed on state roads and further asked Mr. Reed to be sure that all participants are aware that cyclists do not ride 2 or 3 abreast. Mr. Reed assured the Chief and the Commission that he would do so.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the Pequot Cyclists Time Trials event as presented upon proof of proper insurance and such other requirements as the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
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CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

b. Angel Ride Event *VOTE NEEDED*
Lynn McCarthy, Executive Director Angel Charities, Inc.

Ms. McCarthy addressed the Commission about the Angel Ride Event that will be taking place on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend between the hours of 1PM and 4PM. There are 25 motor crew and 5 safety vans. Chairman Moukawsher noted that this event runs along with the Young Angel Ride which was voted on and approved by the Commission in April 2016. He asked Ms. McCarthy if both events could be presented together in the future.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the Angel Ride event as presented upon proof of proper insurance and such other requirements as the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application – Mystic Ballet *VOTE/COMMENTS NEEDED
Goran Subotic, 325 Mistuxet Ave.
Brenda Pelt, 315 Mistuxet Ave.
David McCaffrey, 329 Mistuxet Ave.
Mr. Subotic informed the Commission that the School of Mystic Ballet has been founded and operating in the same location, 325 Mistuxet Ave, since 1997. The school provides excellent dance education which benefits the performing arts community and the students. Chairman Moukawsher asked Mr. Subotic if he is changing his curriculum, Mr. Subotic said he was not. Mr. Subotic was not aware that he could not have people/classes in the school outside his previously designated hours of operation. This Special Use Permit Application is the process in which Planning & Zoning determines whether or not the schools hours will be extended beyond the already permitted hours.

Chairman Moukawsher noted that this Commission is only concerned with three potential issues relating to parking, traffic and public safety. Chairman Moukawsher asked Mr. Subotic if the original permit restricted the number of cars that park. Mr. Subotic responded that he buses in students from their homes and some of the staff lives on the property. Chairman Moukawsher asked Mr. Subotic about the website which highlights shows and events including the Mystic Dark Room and wanted to know how many cars would show up to such events. Mr. Subotic replied that the events were for people performing in the school, more like recitals which bring in 15-16 cars and there are 15-20 events per year. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked if the events are publicized and is there a charge to attend. Mr. Subotic responded yes to both. Commissioner Gourd noted that on the original application parking was limited to 14 spaces in front of the building. Commissioner Gourd has personally witnessed the parking issue and has seen the deeded right of way blocked. Commissioner Gourd believed expanded hours will exacerbate the problem with parking. Commissioner Trebisacci asked Mr. Subotic if he has experienced parking issues. Mr. Subotic responded that he has not and that he places cones so new comers who do not know where to park will not block the neighbors' access. Commissioner Trebisacci asked what happens when there are more cars than parking. Mr. Subotic answered that it has only happened once or twice and people parked on the street, Mistuxet Ave, but only for a short period of time.

Commissioner Trebisacci asked Mr. Subotic when the Mystic Dark Room started. Mr. Subotic responded that last fall he labeled the event the Mystic Dark Room but it has been ongoing. Vice Chairman Holt noted that on the website it seemed to encourage bring your own beer to the site.

Commissioner Trebisacci stated that there needs to be a plan for overflow parking and emergency access. Mr. Subotic stated the limit inside the building is 24 people, there are 17 parking spots and sometimes there is a bit of an overlap between classes.

Brenda Pelt was invited to address her concerns about the extended hours at the Mystic Ballet with the Commission. Ms. Pelt would like to clarify that she did not opt out of the use of the driveway but opted out of paving it because she liked the rural look which is part of the reason she bought the property. Ms. Pelt needs the use of the deeded right of way. She congratulated Mr. Subotic's success; however, she feels that Mystic Ballet has outgrown the residential area and the original application. Ms. Pelt uses the deeded right of way regularly. She has seen overflow of about 6-7 cars out on Mistuxet Ave more than once. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked if she believes this is a public safety issue and Ms. Pelt responded yes.

David McCaffrey was invited to address his concerns about the extended hours at the Mystic Ballet with the Commission. There is one driveway off Mistuxet that services four houses. One house is now a business with clients that require parking. Mr. McCaffrey stated that the Mistuxet driveway is not made for a large volume of cars. Performances bring in a lot of cars and it is not only a parking issue but also a public safety issue. Chairman Moukawsher asked if Mr. McCaffrey regularly uses the Mistuxet driveway. He responded that he does and also the secondary driveway out to Jerry Brown is not known to emergency vehicles since his address is Mistuxet.

Mr. Subotic noted that he paved the driveway because it would wash out. He also pays a company to plow. He does not believe that extending the hours will increase the current amount of cars. Mr. Subotic feels he is serving the community by providing performing arts to the community and the students.

Chief Stewart commented that this is a classic example of a business in a residential area where issues arise between the business and neighbors. The Chief only saw one complaint about parking made to the Police Department and did not have any recorded parking complaints on Mistuxet.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to return the Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application **with the following comments:**

Upon review of the Subotic Request, the Police Commission has the following comments relating to traffic control and public safety:
1) There is no clear plan regarding overflow parking;
2) There is no clear plan regarding emergency access to the Subotic property or other adjoining properties serviced by the common right of way that runs through the Subotic property;

3) The petition appears to contemplate an increased use of the property that envisions the consumption of alcohol on the premises.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. Commissioner Gourd abstained. No discussion, motion approved

4. Correspondence

a. Letter Re: Taste of Mystic & October Fest Events *VOTE NEEDED*

Christopher Regan, Regan Enterprises

Mr. Regan addressed the Commission about the Taste of Mystic which will be held at the Olde Mistick Village from 5PM to 10PM Friday June 10, 11AM to 10PM Saturday June 11, and 11AM to 5PM on Sunday June 12. Twenty three restaurants are participating. Alcohol sales will end at 9:30PM, same as last year. Vice Chairman Holt asked if there will be any changes from last year. Mr. Regan replied that there are 4 more restaurants participating. He believes the event will bring in 40-45 thousand people. Chief Stewart commented that the event went well last year and there were no issues.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the Taste of Mystic event as presented upon proof of proper insurance and such other requirements as the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. Chief Stewart noted that the amount of personnel needed is at the discretion of the Police Department. No further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

The Commission decided to not approved October Fest therefore a vote was not taken.

b. Request for Outdoor Dog Run at Animal Control Facility

Marilyn Citrone, CT Animal House

Christine Lamb, President of CT Animal House

Marilyn Citrone addressed the Commission about her request to use donated monies to install an outdoor dog run at the Animal Control Facility. She stated that this would be very beneficial for impounded dogs. Chief Stewart spoke with the trustee of the account which gifted $25,000 to the Town of Stonington Animal Control Department and asked if using the funds to fence in an area for the purposes of a dog run at the Animal Control Facility on Greenhaven Rd. was acceptable. The trustee agreed that it is a good use for the funds. Captain Olson went to the site and measured out an approximate 25'x35' area. The area can be accessed from a door within the facility so there is no chance of escape. There will also be a double gate to allow lawn mower access and a single gate for staff and visitors. The fence will be 5' high. The install price is $18/ft for a 5' galvanized chain link fence including above mentioned gates for an approximate total of $6,000. The next step is to bring the plan to Planning & Zoning.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the installation of an outdoor dog run at the Animal Control Facility, expenditure of up to $8,000. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Save the Kid Fund Event *FYI*
Per Chief Stewart, event will take place entirely within the Olde Mistick Village parking lot.

5. Traffic
a. Letter Re: Meadow Avenue, Stonington CT
Chief Stewart informed the Commission that a brief survey has shown a high speed of 31 mph on Meadow Ave. The sign is currently collecting data. The Department is looking into purchasing another speed sign, possibly a fourth as well.

b. Memo Re: Mystic Tourist Information Center Sign Proposal *VOTE NEEDED*
Vice Chairman Holt made a motion to approve the Mystic Tourist Information Center Sign Proposal as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. North Main Street Traffic Count/White Line Request *OLD BUSINESS*
Captain Olson informed the Commission that a traffic counter was placed on North Main Street north of Barnes Rd. In one, 24-hr period on Wednesday April 28th the counter showed 4286 vehicles traveled on that portion of the road in both directions. The counter showed roughly the same number of vehicles on the following day, well below the state minimum of 6,000 vehicles per day.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to not install "Cat Eyes" on North Main Street. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Vice Chairman Holt made a motion to not move forward with white lines on North Main Street as a result of Captain Olson's analysis showing that the State of Connecticut criteria have not been met. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

d. Route 27 Crosswalks *OLD BUSINESS*
Nothing new

e. Parking – Mystic River Bridge *OLD BUSINESS*
Nothing New

f. 3-Way Stop, Old Mystic *OLD BUSINESS*
Nothing new

6. Approval of Minutes for Thursday, April 14, 2016 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*
Chairman Moukawsher requested the amendment of the word Committee to Commission in agenda item 1.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2016 regular meeting as amended. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy abstained. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. No discussion, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Chief Stewart noted that we are 85% through the fiscal year and the biggest over run is in regular overtime but there is plenty of money in the grouping.

b. Monthly Report

There has been a significant drop in ill persons. There were 13 DWI arrests, 309 MVA stops and 272 criminal arrests up 51 arrests from last year at this time.

c. Pawcatuck Statistics

d. Alarm Report

e. Special Event Schedule

f. Mystic Half Marathon

g. Life Saving Award Nomination

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that Officer Barrell and Officer Burge have been nominated for the Life Saving Award after they removed a subject from the train tracks just before a west bound train came down the tracks narrowly missing all three.

h. Wequetequock & Stonington Fire Departments Now Dispatched by Westerly Ambulance Corps

i. New 911 System

Per Captain Olson the only phone issues to note are just regarding call quality. The new statewide 911 system is up and running. The Commission praised Captain Olson saying he did a great job lining up the new phone system.

j. Detective Cody Floyd Retirement

Detective Cody Floyd retired after 27 years on the Stonington Police force. Captain Olson is moving forward with 13 backgrounds at this time.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Holt to accept the Report of the Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Memos Re: Vehicle Donation

The Board of Selectmen approved the vehicle donation.

b. Letter Re: Young Angel Ride Approval

c. Highway Use Permit: Brain Injury Alliance Tour of Lights Bike-a-thon

d. Letter Re: Chief Stewart – Thank you: STEP Ad Hoc Committee

e. Letter Re: Thank You, Mystic Aquarium – Captain Olson
The SPD boat is now in the water.

f. Memo Re: Job Well Done

g. Highway Use Permit: Mystic Half Marathon

h. Letters Re: Westerly-Pawcatuck Memorial Day Parade

i. UCONN Commencement Program

j. Memo Re: Great Job – Officer Barrell & Reserve Officer Burge

Vice Chairman Holt made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

9. Adjourn
Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. No discussion, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick J. Moukawsher
Chairman