

March 9, 2022

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 5:30 p.m. Present were First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough, Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie. Members of the public were present. There were no members of the press present.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

- Mr. Aundré Bumgardner of the Groton Town Council stated that he looks forward to working in continued partnership with the Town of Stonington.
- Ms. Jessica Morrissey of Stonington, spoke regarding topics including the Charter Revision Commission, oversight of the Board of Education/School Department by the State of CT and access to virtual meetings.

(4) Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 23, 2022.

(5) Correspondence

Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Mr. Eric Garofano and Mr. Christopher Houlihan in the form of an application for the Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board.

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Anthony Caporale as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Resignation – Commission on Aging

The Board accepted the resignation of Ruth Nolder from the Commission on Aging with regret. An acknowledgement will be sent to thank her for her service.

(7) Old Business

Discussion – Charter Revision Commission

Discussion ensued with Board members sharing their thoughts on the potential reestablishment of the Charter Revision Commission. The overall consensus included that it should not move forward at this time based on the amount of current ongoing and time sensitive Town projects, additional competitive grant opportunities at the State/Federal level which will require a great deal of time and focus, concerns with the amount of time/effort needed to meet tight charter revision timeline as well as other factors.

It was agreed that a list should be created to showcase the areas that may benefit from a charter change as that would be helpful information to have available for future use.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to not move forward with the reestablishment of the Charter Revision Commission.

(8) New Business

Discussion – Voter Redistricting Update

Ms. Chesebrough reviewed an update from the Registrar of Voters regarding redistricting stating the results of the 2020 US Census require that Stonington will now be divided into two state legislative house districts, rather than one, as has been the case before now. Voters in the north and eastern parts of

town, including Pawcatuck will be electing a representative in the 43rd district, which is currently represented by Greg Howard. Those who live in the Borough and in Mystic south of I-95 will vote in the 41st district, which is now represented by Joe de la Cruz.

In addition, polling places have been adjusted to improve the voting experience and to even out the number of voters in each of Stonington's five districts. District 2, Pawcatuck, which had more than twice as many voters as some others, will now be divided into two voting districts. Other adjustments will also be made to optimize access and convenience.

These changes will be reviewed at a town meeting in April and will be implemented later this year. Although a Town Meeting is a necessary step based on Town Charter, because this action is required by state law, it is not subject to change by the town.

The Registrar of Voters want to ensure that voters are aware of the new districts and where they will go to vote in the future. Voters can expect to be mailed notice of their Connecticut House representative districts and their polling places sometime later this year. The new maps will be posted soon on the town website and residents can also review in the office of the Registrar of Voters.

Request – Use of Donahue Park

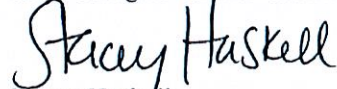
A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce for the 22nd Annual Duck Race on April 30, 2022.

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie gave an overview of the Board of Education meetings noting that the announcement of the new superintendent and high school principal would be forthcoming. Interviews were conducted with firms for the Stillman Mill Assessment. The RFP for the Boathouse Park is out and interviews will be conducted in the future. The Beautification Committee is holding a flower bulb fundraiser.
- Ms. Strunk stated the Commission on Aging and Mystic Geriatric Institute will be holding a conference on May 14th focusing on caregivers. The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold public meetings regarding updates to the zoning regulations. The Climate Change Task Force will be submitting their support of the sustainability manager position to the Board of Finance.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated the conservation of the property on Al Harvey Road continues to move forward. A request for quote will be going out soon for landscape architect conceptual design at the Circus Lot in Pawcatuck. Ms. Chesebrough noted she would be meeting with Congressman Courtney regarding the earmark funds for the water loop project which is headed to the House and Senate for final consideration.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary