

June 8, 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 and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie. Selectwoman June Strunk was available via conference phone line. Members of the public and press were present.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Public Hearing – 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Application

Ms. Chesebrough called the public hearing to order at 5:32 p.m. Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, gave an overview of the program citing that it provides funding for municipal and tax-exempt organization by permitting corporation business tax credits to the business that make cash contributions to the entities. He noted that money goes directly to the entities and is not filtered through the Town. Two applications were submitted from the Stonington Community Center and The Learn Project, Inc.

We did not receive any written communication in advance of the meeting for or against the 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Application.

Ms. Chesebrough asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Application. No one spoke.

Ms. Chesebrough adjourned the public hearing at 5:35 p.m.

(4) Discussion - 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Applications

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Applications from the Stonington Community Center and The Learn Project, Inc.

(5) Comments from the Public

None

(6) Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the special meeting minutes of May 24, 2022.
- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the special meeting minutes of May 25, 2022.

(7) Correspondence

- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Mr. Stuart Schwartzstein with suggestions including but not limited to the Town reducing the amount of mowing, planting of additional trees, new approaches to Town landscaping, replacement of town gas powered vehicles with electric and creation of master street lighting plan.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from neighbors of Prentice Williams Road regarding their opposition of the proposed lithium-ion battery energy storage facility that may be going before the CT Siting Council for approval in the future. They are requesting that the Town write a letter of opposition to the CT Siting Council and also have the Economic Development Commission suggest alternative sites for the project.

(8) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Christopher Houlihan, David Rathbun, Dennis Unites, Robert Mohr and Daniel Booker to the Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board.

(9) Old Business

Appointment – Commission on Aging

A motion was made by Ms. Chesebrough, seconded by Ms. Downie and voted unanimously to appoint Nancy Houlihan to the Commission on Aging.

(10) New Business

Request - From Human Services for an additional appropriation of ARPA grant funding, from ARPA contingency line for reconstruction of tennis courts including lights and wind screens

Ms. Leanne Theodore, Human Services Director, requested an additional appropriation of \$499,333.00 of ARPA grant funding, from the ARPA contingency line item to fund reconstruction of the tennis courts including lights and wind screens. This item was approved by the Board of Finance.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the additional appropriation of \$499,333.00 of ARPA grant funding, from the ARPA contingency line item to fund reconstruction of tennis courts, including lights and wind screens.

Award of Bid – Renovation of Spellman Park Tennis Courts

The Department of Human Services received two [2] bids for the renovation of Spellman Park tennis courts on May 26th, 2022. This construction project includes the demolition of the existing courts and installation of [6] new courts and [2] pickleball courts along with fencing, lighting and windscreens. The low bid went to Classic Turf Company, LLC. for the amount of \$1,083,500. This amount includes the base bid of \$862,200 and \$209,300 for lighting and \$12,000 for screening. Bids and references were reviewed. The Department of Human Services requested the award of bid go to Classic Turf Company, LLC in the amount of \$1,083,500 for the renovation of Spellman Tennis Courts.

The cost will be offset with funds from the Capital Improvement Program Budget and American Rescue Plan Act.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to award the bid for the renovations of Spellman Park tennis courts to Classic Turf Company, LLC in the amount of \$1,083,500.

Request - Use of Donahue Park

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the use of the Donahue Park on November 5, 2022 for the St. Michael School annual road race.

Request – Assign Map 85, Block 2, Lot 1, Street Number 146 Taugwonk Road, Stonington, CT 06378

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the request.

(11) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie stated that a geotechnical engineering firm has been selected for the Mystic River Boathouse Park. A site walk was conducted with the consultation at Stillman Ave and work will begin in July. Ms. Downie attended the Decoration Day event at the Mystic Seaport as well as the West Vine Street School Sensory Garden opening.
- Ms. Strunk did not have any comments.

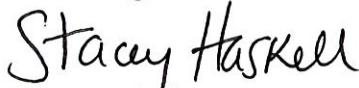
- Ms. Chesebrough noted that she had a meeting with East Point Energy and shared the concerns raised by neighbors on Prentice Williams Road. She also stated that East Point Energy is in the early stages of the potential project which would have to go before the CT Citing Council for approval. If the project moves forward to the Citing Council, the Board can send a letter sharing their thoughts at that time. She noted that a tax abatement would not be moving forward. She will ask the Economic Development Commission to work with East Point Energy to see if there is a more suitable location in Town. East Point Energy will reach out if they decide to move forward with the project.

Ms. Chesebrough stated that the conservation project on Al Harvey Road has officially closed preserving 230 acres of land.

Ms. Chesebrough stated that a community conversation will be held to discuss short term rentals on June 20th from 5:30-7:30 at the Velvet Mill. She stated that this will be the first of two or more interactive conversations to be held with residents in the coming months. The goal in the first session is to listen and brainstorm potential options on the topic. She noted that it is not going to be an easy fix as there are limited resources including staff and enforcement but is hoping to find a balanced approach.

(12) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Haskell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary