

August 9, 2023

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 and press were present.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(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 July 12, 2023.

(5) Correspondence

Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Peter Gardner in the form of an application for the Planning and Zoning Commission.

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Cultural District Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Susan Lavender Fornara, Marya Ursin, Sandra Alexander, Daniel Brandl and Jessica Cerullo as alternate members of the Cultural District Commission.

Appointment – Climate Change Task Force

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Jane Dawson to the Climate Change Task Force.

Reappointment – Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Michelle Davis to the Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission moving her from an alternate to a regular member.

Reappointment – Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Nathaniel Trumbull as a regular member and Diana Lurie Boersma moving her from an alternate to a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals effective September 1, 2023.

It was noted that Mark Mitsko will meet term limits of the Zoning Board of Appeals effective August 31, 2023.

Reappointment – Planning and Zoning Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Ben Philbrick moving him from a regular to an alternate member and Andy Meek moving him from an alternate to a regular member effective September 1, 2023.

Reappointment – Waterfront Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan to the Waterfront Commission.

Resignation – Planning and Zoning Commission

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Marjorie Selinger from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Resignation – Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Tim O'Brien and Raul Ferreira from the Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission.

(7) Old Business

None

(8) New Business

Request – Building Permit Fee Waiver for Town Project – Pickleball Courts

The Human Services Recreation Department submitted a request to waive the building permit fee associated with the pickleball courts at Spellman Park in the amount of \$13,499.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the building permit fee waiver in the amount of \$13,499.

Request – Building Permit Fee Waiver for Non-Profit – St. Michael

Fr. Perkins of St. Michael Parish, requested a building permit fee waiver of \$3,157 associated with a kitchen renovation project at St. Michael parish. The parish is a non-profit and is requesting in accordance with the newly adopted non-profit building permit fee waiver policy.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted to unanimously to approve the building permit fee waiver in the amount of \$3,157.

Resolution – Sustainable CT Protection and Enhancement of Pollinator Habitats

Susan Cullen, Director of Economic and Community Development, requested adoption of the resolution noting the Town participates in the Sustainable Connecticut Program which promotes an overall approach to building a community that reduces energy use, creates and maintains native environments, prevents water waste and cleans up pollution in all forms.

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

Resolution – ARPA Home Improvement Revolving Loan Fund

Jim Sullivan, Director of Finance, requested adoption of the resolution noting that it is needed in order to create a special revenue fund for the ARPA Home Improvement Revolving Loans. The Town received and set aside \$150,000 in ARPA funds for the purpose of making home improvement loans to Stonington taxpayers who meet certain income limitations to enhance the safety and living conditions of residential buildings. The resolution also notes that should the loan program be determined to be no longer viable in the future that the balance of the remaining funds will either be requested to be repurposed through the US Treasury or returned.

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

Resolution – Update to the Southeastern CT Council of Governments Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan

The Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SCCOG) has completed an update to the Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan which was approved by FEMA. As a municipal member of the SCCOG, this plan enables the Town to apply for and receive pre-disaster funds from FEMA for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, Flood Mitigation Assistance and also acts as a guide for planning and funding other projects either undertaken with municipal funds or other grants.

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

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie gave an overview of the Mystic River Boathouse Park meeting noting that the project continues to move forward. An application for the 90-day delay of the shed is in the process of being submitted. The Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board are working on community project meetings with the Climate Change Task Force.
- Ms. Strunk gave an overview stating that the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center continues to offer weekly luncheon seminars. The Climate Change Task Force is working on new projects and priorities. The Commission on Aging has paused their meetings during the summer and will meet again in September.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that members of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Implementation Committee will be conducting outreach to boards/commissions regarding segments of the POCD to begin gathering information that will be used for updates to the plan. A regional open space plan meeting was held by the SCCOG which showcased long term conservations and recreations goals and how that can help the POCD. The Town will be hosting an event on August 31st at 6:00PM at the Stonington Fire Department for International Overdose Awareness Day. The RFQ for the water loop project has gone out. The bid will be open for 5-6 weeks. The onboarding of the firm awarded the bid will occur within the month following the bid closing. The earmarked federal funding has not been released to the Town as it is still with HUD. All of the work required by HUD leading up to the release of the funds has been completed by the Town. The funding is anticipated to be released by HUD soon. Once the RFQ is awarded it will take an additional 9-10 months of engineering work with 3-4 months of construction. Depending on the timeline of when the engineering begins and is completed, the construction could possibly be continued into the following spring.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary