

STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 5:00PM
MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Bill Turner, Vice Chairman Patricia Coan
Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates, Commissioner Richard Balestracci, &
Commissioner Jessica Mills
Chief Jay DelGrosso, Captain Bryan Schneider

Absent: Deputy Chief Todd Olson

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Turner Called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

Chairman Turner welcomed Commissioner Jessica Mills to the Police Commission.

Commissioner Patricia Coan made a motion to appoint Bill Turner as the new Chairman of the Police Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Richard Balestracci. All in favor. Motion approved.

Chairman Turner made a motion to appoint Patricia Coan as the new Vice Chair of the Police Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Jessica Mills. All in favor. Motion approved.

2. Remarks of the Public

Grace Lund from the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce gave an update on the holiday events that are happening in the Stonington Borough. There were some concerns raised by the fire department regarding traffic on the night of the events, and attempting to request a second officer, but know that it won't be possible due to the Lighted Boat Parade being on the same night as the tree lighting. Chief DelGrosso commented that these concerns came up last year due to the amount of people being in the Borough and being able to respond properly. There will be No Parking signs, and barriers put up the night before to ensure fire trucks can respond, and make turns on corners. Chief Delgrosso put out for two officers to be hired for the event due to the volume, but doesn't have the confidence to fill both positions due to another event happening that night. Second officer is more for traffic flow

3. Correspondence

None

4. New Business

Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a motion to add item Line E Borough Stroll under New Business. Seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. All in favor Motion approved.

a. Kelley's Pace Road Races *VOTE NEEDED*

Jeff Walker, the Race Director for Kelley's Pace, presented the Commissioners with the plans for the Hare Hop, Frostbite, and Battle of Stonington Road Races. All events are taking place as normal with no changes from years past.

Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a motion to approve the Kelley's Pace Road Races as submitted to the Police Commission subject to the meeting of the Town's insurance requirements, and any issue that the Police Department may arise prior to the event. Seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

b. Lighted Boat Parade *VOTE NEEDED*

Bruce Flax, President of the Mystic Chamber of Commerce, presented the Commissioners with the final plan for the Lighted Boat Parade, and Santa Arrives by Tugboat happening on Saturday November 25, 2023. Flax is expecting a bigger event this year if the weather is nice. He met with the Chief, and Deputy Chief last week to ensure a safe event. There will be no parking on the west side of Cottrell Street on the day of the event from 11AM on and going to close street at 5PM. Same will also happen for Holmes St. Also coordinating with Groton to clear bridge off to start parade on time. The Seaport Marine has been secured for parking and will reach out to churches to see if they would be willing to participate in parking as well. Chief Delgrosso added that these events are getting larger. Approx 15,000 people, which was overwhelming for officers. The Town will be adding trucks on Cottrell Street to make sure cars can't go down. Flax is anticipating 20,000 people to the event. Chairman Turner added that there will be a much larger crowd due to the Hallmark Movie, and echoed the Chief's concerns.

Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates Made a Motion to Approve the Lighted Boat Parade, and Santa arrives by Tugboat as submitted to the Police Commission subject to the meeting of the Town's insurance requirements, and any issue that the Police Department may arise prior to the event. Seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: Hero Holdings, LLC *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Clay Burkhalter from Hero Holdings LLC addressed the Police Commissioners regarding the former Meadows Landing Property. The new name where events will be held is called the Hounds. They're applying for a special use permit for amplified music. Primary reason is for events that happen at the site. May occasionally do

events similar to Salt Water Farm Vineyards. A sound study was done indoors with the doors open, and noise is within state guidelines, and won't go past property line. Events happening there won't go past 10PM. Chairman Turner asked if this is any different from previous owner? No, previous owner didn't have special use permit. Chief DelGrosso added that not having a permit, and violating a town ordinance is two different things, and that area there is no concerns.

Chairman Turner made a motion to forward to Planning & Zoning that the Police Commission sees no issue with the amendment as submitted by the applicant seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved

d. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: Fair Housing of Connecticut, LLC *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Sergio Cherenzia gave a presentation to the Police Commissioners on behalf of the applicant. He reported that the Special Use Permit has been changed to site water approval. The applicant has met with the Fire Department to ensure adequate accessibility for the fire department's largest truck. Mike Dim presented the Commissioners with a traffic study that was completed to determine if this project will have an impact on traffic. Traffic counts were done at Pine, Manor, and 78 intersections. All data collected was sent to DOT Policy Office and was approved. After both presentations there were many concerns raised by both the Commissioners, and Chief DelGrosso, which included safety for children going to and from school, adequate safety within the complex, and the amount of all volume on the department. The applicant, and the presenters that spoke were advised by the Police Commission to take the suggestions given and return next month.

e. Stonington Borough Holiday Stroll *VOTE NEEDED*

Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a motion to approve the Borough Stroll as submitted to the Police Commission subject to the meeting of the Town's insurance requirements, and any issue that the Police Department may arise prior to the event. Seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

5. Old Business

6. Traffic

**7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, August 10, 2023 Regular Meeting
*VOTE NEEDED***

Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 12, 2023 Regular meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Chief DelGrosso indicated that Training Budget is on track. Uniforms went up, and down 3 officers due to travel. Chief Delgrosso noted that security checks at schools have been increased.

b. Monthly Report

c. Special Events Schedule

Events in the town are getting really big. Officers are being ordered in.

Chief DelGrosso commented that the housing is great, but not having enough officers can be difficult. They're having to stack calls meaning that there isn't an officer available to respond to the call.

Lastly Chief DelGrosso discussed the requests to the Board of Finance to add two dispatchers, but only received one.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Letters Re: Liberty Street Fire:

Officers assisted with clearing the building, and getting the hoses out for the Fire Department

10. Adjourn

At 6:30PM Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Coan, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Tepper Bates
Secretary

William J. Turner
Chair SBOPC