

April 14, 2021

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular virtual meeting on this date at 5:30 p.m. This meeting was also streamed on Facebook live and was available via audio on a conference line. First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough, Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie were in attendance. No public or press were present in the room. Public and press were able to view via Facebook live as well as audio through a conference call.

(1) Call to Order

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

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the special meeting minutes of March 31, 2021.
- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the special meeting minutes of April 7, 2021.

(4) Correspondence

None

(5) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Reappointment – Stonington Facilities Committee

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Sandy Grimes, Chris Donahue and Jean Fiore to the Stonington Facilities Committee.

Reappointment – Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Nick Kepple and Steve Planchon to the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee.

Reappointment – Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Howard Reichart to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

Resignation – Climate Change Task Force

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Dana Hewson from the Climate Change Task Force.

Resignation – Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Katherine Kraschel as an alternate member of the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee.

(6) Old Business

Update on COVID-19

A reminder to check the Town's website for weekly updates regarding COVID-19.

As of April 14th, 50% of Stonington residents have been vaccinated. As of April 1st, vaccinations continue to be offered to those 16 and older. Please refer to the Town's website as for an overview of the many different ways to register for a vaccination.

(7) New Business

Ms. Chesebrough stated that we received a request for use of the Town Dock prior to the meeting which would need to be added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to add the request for the use of Town Dock to the agenda.

Resolution – Appropriating Funds for the Purpose of Refunding and Refinance Bonds

Ms. Chesebrough noted that she received a summary from James Sullivan, Director of Finance, on the topic stating that the resolution will allow the Town to refund/replace existing debt with new debt issued at a lower interest rate. The two old issuances are the 2013 and 2014 bond issuances. The proceeds from the new issuance are put into a sinking fund, which sets aside funds in escrow to be invested in such a manner as to allow the sinking fund to service the old debt. The old debt is taken off the Town's "books" as a liability and replaced with the new issuance. The Town services the new debt while the sinking fund services the old debt. Mr. Sullivan noted that the expecting savings in debt service for FY 21/22 should be about \$677,000.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the resolution appropriating up to \$9,000,000 for the purposed of refunding and refinancing bonds of the Town that are issued and outstanding and authorizing the issuance of up to \$9,000.000 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriations.

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 6, 2021 for the St. Michael School annual road race contingent upon receipt of an updated certificate of insurance.

Request – Use of Town Dock

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the use of the Town Dock grassy area by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce from November 23, 2021 – January 31, 2022 to install a lobster pot tree decorated with lights and buoys as well as for a tree lighting ceremony on November 27, 2021. The request approval is contingent upon the Chamber also receiving approval from the Waterfront Commission and SVIA.

(8) Comments from the Public

None

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie stated that both Brownfield Remediation Grant Applications have been submitted for the Stillman Avenue property and Mystic River Boathouse Park.
- Ms. Strunk gave an overview of the Board of Police Commission meeting noting they share correspondence they have received from residents/business which are very appreciative and heartfelt.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that she applied for earmark funding on two projects including the water loop and circus lot. She added that an application has also been submitted to DPH for a grant in regards to the water loop project. The Veteran Monument Advisory Group held their first meeting and discussed items such as criteria, design images and fundraising. The Annual Town Budget Meeting will be held virtually on Monday, April 19th at 5:30 p.m. followed by a referendum on Tuesday, April 27th.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary