

June 10, 2020

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special virtual meeting on this date at 4:00 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 4:01 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Public Hearing – 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Application

Ms. Chesebrough called the public hearing to order at 4:03 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.

Ms. Beth Ann Stewart, Stonington Community Center gave an overview for their application and Energy Conservation Project.

Ms. Brittney Stulpin, representing The Learn Project gave an overview of their application and Dual College Credit Program.

Ms. Chesebrough asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Application. No one spoke.

Ms. Chesebrough adjourned the public hearing at 4:09 p.m.

(4) Discussion - 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Applications

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Applications from the Stonington Community Center and The Learn Project, Inc.

(5) 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 21, 2020 and June 3, 2020.

(6) Correspondence

- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Ann Harvey in the form of an application for the Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Gisela Harma in the form of an application for the Commission on Aging.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Austin Clark in the form of an application for the Shellfish Commission.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Annmarie Castagno-Clark and Stacy Cassata in the form of an application for the Beautification Committee.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Melinda Carlisle in the form of an application for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Matthew Beaudoin in the form of an application for the Mystic Harbor Management Commission.

(7) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Resignation – Architectural Design Review Board

The Selectmen accepted the resignations of George Wingblade and Sue Cullen from the Architectural Design Review Board, with regret.

(8) Old Business

Update on COVID-19

Ms. Chesebrough stated that phase two of the reopening will occur on June 17, 2020 and includes many new areas. Information can be found on the Town website and Facebook page. She added that Town Hall reopened to the public this week with new safety measures in place to keep residents and staff safe.

(9) New Business

Discussion – Denison Society Tax Exempt Ordinance

Ms. Chesebrough stated that this item would typically be acted upon at a Town Meeting however will be considered by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to Governor Lamont's Executive Order JJ.

Ms. Marsha Standish, Tax Assessor, gave an overview of the request stating that the Denison Society purchased a property at 137 Pequotsepos Rd on October 30, 2019 which qualifies for a tax-exempt status on October 1, 2020. The request is for an abatement of taxes with a prorated assessment from October 30, 2019 – Sept 30, 2020 of \$6,189.74.

Mr. David Evans, Treasurer of the Denison Society, stated that the property was purchased in a foreclosure and they plan to utilize the building for geological work.

Ms. Downie stated that she was a trustee to the Denison Society many years ago and wanted to disclose the former connection prior to voting on the ordinance.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the Denison Society Tax Exempt Ordinance.

Request – Assign Map 44, Block 1, Lot 4A, Street Number 152 Miner Pentway, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

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

Request – Assign Map 11, Block 7, Lot 2, Street Number 15 Schiller Ave, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

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

(10) Comments from the Public

- Mr. John Pistoletto, President of the High Ridge Association, spoke in opposition of the solar panel project application that is proposed for installation on the Elmridge Golf Course. He added that he has a petition which has been signed by several area neighbors. Ms. Chesebrough requested a meeting with Mr. Pistoletto so they could discuss further.

Note: Solar energy facilities are reviewed and approved at the state level through the CT Siting Council. Public comment on this project is due to the CT Siting Council by July 4, 2020.

(11) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie stated that she is impressed with how well the virtual meetings are going as more Boards/Commission begin to meet. She stated that the underground storage tank at the Town Dock is set to be installed.
- Ms. Strunk gave an overview of the K-12 Building Committee stating they are having an issue with water pressure at Deans Mill School. Ms. Strunk also stated she thought the virtual meetings were going well.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that she is working on some outreach opportunities in the Town to form programs to discuss race issues and unconscious bias. She stated we have completed interviews for the Director of Administrative Services and hoped to have news on that soon. She discussed that many Towns are grappling with when to open up in person meetings again but it is difficult to do as we are still currently at a ten-person indoor maximum. She added that as of now, all Boards/Commissions will continue virtually at least through the summer and will look at what changes if any can be made in the fall. Lastly, she stated that the Board of Selectmen will continue to hold meetings at 4:00 p.m. throughout the summer.

(12) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 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