

August 11, 2021

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 5:30 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 regular meeting minutes of July 14, 2021.
- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the special meeting minutes of July 22, 2021.
- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the joint Board of Selectmen/Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee special meeting minutes of August 2, 2021.

**(4) Correspondence**

- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Keith Brynes, Town Planner, regarding recent amendments to the CT General Statutes that effect municipal land use regulations and may warrant future action by the Board.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Brian McCormick and Andy Meek in the form of an application for the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Erin Gregor in the form of an application for the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors.

**(5) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation**

**Reappointment – Planning and Zoning Commission**

Ms. Chesebrough stated that Dave Rathbun and A. Gardner Young will step down from the Planning and Zoning Commission as of August 31<sup>st</sup> as term limits will be met. The Board thanked them for their dedication and service to the commission.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Charles Sheehan and Ryan Deasy from alternate to regular members of the Planning and Zoning Commission effective September 1, 2021.

Ms. Chesebrough noted that we are still accepting applications for the vacant seats on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**Reappointment – Retirement Board**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Craig Esposito and Gary Shettle to the Retirement Board.

**Reappointment – Zoning Board of Appeals**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Diana Lurie Boersma as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Resignation – Stonington Harbor Management Commission**

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Paul O'Neill, Sr. from the Stonington Harbor Management Commission with regret.

**(6) Old Business**

**Discussion – American Rescue Plan Funds**

The Board of Selectmen discussed the best practice to utilize during their next meeting when reviewing the requests submitted for American Rescue Plan Funds. At the next Board of Selectmen meeting, they will review all requests to finalize the options that will be sent to the Board of Finance for review and consideration. The Board of Finance will then hold a Public Hearing in September prior to the item going to a Town Meeting.

Through the American Rescue Plan, Stonington is set to receive \$5,230,926.56 for local expenditure. Funds must be used to cover “costs incurred” by the recipient between March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024, and Funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. The funds can only be allocated for certain uses. The US Department of Treasury has issued an interim guidance and organizations like the COG, CCM and NLC have all helped share their interpretation for allowed uses for municipalities.

Broadly speaking, funds can be used to cover costs associated with:

- Responding to the negative impacts of the COVID pandemic, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits as well as aid to affected industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- Providing government services previously cut due to pandemic-related revenue shortfalls, and;
- Making needed investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

It is important to note that general infrastructure spending is not covered as an eligible use outside of water, sewer, and broadband investments or above the amount allocated under the revenue loss provision.

**(7) New Business**

**Discussion – Route 1 Sidewalk Project Update**

Ms. Susan Cullen, Director of Economic and Community Development, gave an update on the project stating that nine out of the twenty-two easements needed to construct sidewalks along Route 1 have been obtained. She added that an additional six easements are being negotiated and six more will be negotiated after the design for properties at the entrance to the Pawcatuck Shopping Center is complete. She noted that one property owner has declined to grant the easement. Designs are being drafted for sidewalks on both sides of the street with the goal of obtaining additional funding if the \$1 million in local and state funding is not enough to complete the project.

**Discussion – Conservation easement to the Town for an approved subdivision at 152 S. Anguilla Road**

Ms. Chesebrough stated that Keith Brynes, Town Planner, forwarded a request from the owners of 152 South Anguilla Road to grant a 2.4-acre Conservation Easement to the Town. The easement satisfies the requirements of Subdivision Regulations and has been approved by the Town Attorney.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to accept the conservation easement for the Howard Subdivision at 152 S. Anguilla Road.

**Discussion – Drainage Easement to the Town over Swale at the Old Mystic Estates Subdivision**

Ms. Chesebrough stated that Keith Brynes, Town Planner, forwarded a request from Toll CT Limited Partnership, developers of Old Mystic Estates subdivision to grant a swale maintenance easement to the Town. The Old Mystic Estates 48 lot subdivision was originally approved in 2004. In 2015, after denial of proposed plan modifications, the Town and Toll CT entered into a Superior Court Stipulated Settlement which allowed development to continue after Toll’s constructions of off-site drainage

improvements to Whitehall Pond and the Mystic River. One of the conditions of the Stipulated Judgement was that Toll CT grant and easement over an existing swale on lots 46, 47 and 48, prior to the home owner's association accepting responsibility for its maintenance. The easement satisfies the requirements of the settlement and has been approved by the Town Attorney.

The Board had many questions on the easement and requested further information from Mr. Brynes including how to ensure that the homeowners association maintains the swale, if the associations bylaws reflect who is responsible for the maintenance and if new homeowners are made aware of the swale maintenance in advance of purchasing the property.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to table the swale maintenance easement for Old Mystic Estates Subdivision to a future meeting.

**Request – Assign Map 151, Block 3, Lot 18A, Street Number 162 Hewitt Road, Mystic, CT 06335**

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

**Request – Assign Map 84, Block 2, Lot 1, Street Number 3 Farmholme Rd. Extension, Stonington, CT 06378**

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

**(8) Comments from the Public**

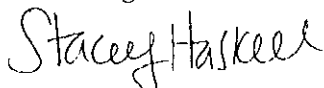
Mr. Joe Rendeiro of Cove Road stated that he would like the memorial bench of a deceased fisherman who did not die at sea removed from the Town Dock property as he did not feel it was appropriate to allow a private memorial to be placed on Town property.

**(9) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Ms. Downie stated that the Beautification Committee had a successful rain barrel fundraiser and may do another one again soon. She also noted that the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee went very well.
- Ms. Strunk agreed that the joint meeting went very well and should consider doing them more often. She gave an overview of the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting noting that per the amendments to the CT General Statutes, municipalities can decide to opt in or out of allowing cannabis facilities within the Town. The Planning and Zoning Commission will discuss the item and may move it to the Board of Selectmen to request it go to Town Meeting for voters to decide.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that the grant packets for the Boathouse and Stillman Ave projects have come in and are being completed. She added that New London County is now at substantial risk in regards to COVID. Vaccinations rates for fully vaccinated Stonington residents are at 65% and those that are age 65+ are at 100%. Masks are required in all municipal buildings. The Veteran Monument Project has raised \$25,000 to date and will have a booth at the Mystic Art Festival to continue outreach efforts.

**(10) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary