

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

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-OR-

Streaming live on the Town of Stonington's Facebook page

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Henri Gourd & Vice Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy
Commissioners Bill Turner, Bob Elmer & Bob Tabor
Chief Darren Stewart & Captain Todd Olson

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gourd called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Statements from Commissioner Robert O'Shaughnessy and Chairman Henri Gourd

Chairman Gourd invited Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy to speak.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that the Board of Selectwomen, at their recent meeting, suggested that the public get to know him as a person rather than through social media postings. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy came to Connecticut as a result of his service in the U.S. Navy where he served as a hospital corpsman at the submarine center in Groton, Connecticut. After being released from the service, he became a Connecticut State Trooper and served there for almost a quarter of a century. While in the State Police, Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy had a number of assignments; he worked undercover, he was a road trooper, he worked on the bomb squad, in the tactical unit and in underwater recovery, to name a few. He retired as a Captain being the Deputy CO of the Eastern District of Connecticut. Upon retiring, Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy went into the private sector and went to work for the Hartford Insurance Company where he managed an internal affairs unit investigating here in the United States and abroad.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy has lived in eastern Connecticut for over fifty years and he has resided in Stonington for almost twenty years. He has always felt it was important to give back to the country, the state and the community in which you live. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy has served as the Director of the Special Olympics, he has been on boards and committees for the American Cancer Society, the Hundred Club of Connecticut, the Sergio Franchi Music Foundation, the Mystic Aquarium and the Waterford Country School. Besides being on the Board of Police Commissioners, Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that the most rewarding area of his volunteer work was with Gift of Mobility, which is Phil Pavone's organization where they pick up used wheelchairs and give them to people that cannot get them any other way.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that he recently reposted some commentaries regarding the extreme tenor of today's environment on his personal Facebook page. He shared those posts considering only

the broader message which he believed spoke to the political divisions across our country. He now comes to see how many statements within these posts are hurtful to people and he would never have any intentions of disrespect. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy apologized for making those postings. He feels very bad about the backlash these postings have created for our community and for the men and women of the Stonington Police Department who put on the uniform every day to protect our community. While Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy has come to better understand how many of the lines within the posts contained hurtful rhetoric toward many different people, he also believes he has been portrayed in both the social and printed media as someone whom he is not. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy has had the pleasure of having a diverse group of friends and colleagues over the years. He knows that people who have known him through these years of close personal relationship would agree that the person portrayed is not the man that he is. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that as a member of the Police Commission for the last four years, any vote that he has taken has been based on what is good for the community. He noted that we have all seen Community Strong signs all around town as part of our response to Covid-19 and he would love that those signs remain visible to remind us that we indeed are a very strong community holding shared ideals and values. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy wants to ensure the community that he has always shared those strong values and will always honor them.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that in the past week, he has met with Jean Jordan, President of the New London Chapter of the NAACP and member Reverend Florence Clarke to discuss these postings. He appreciates this opportunity and is looking forward to further discussions and a stronger working relationship. It has been through these discussions, along with others, that he has come to better understand his error in judgment by sharing these posts, particularly as a leader in our community. Working with his fellow members of the Police Commission as well as the Board of Selectwomen and others, Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy is looking forward to continuing to engage and educate us on many important topics faced in our community, including those of unconscious bias. He hopes we can look for ways to build up rather than tear down. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy hopes we can resolve civil discourse and not continue to assume bad intent when we disagree. Our country is founded upon the ideals that each of us express our thoughts and feelings freely and openly in order that we may work together to find common solutions to difficult issues. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that we need to restore an open and honest dialog to better serve our whole community.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that, today, we stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. The final words in that pledge are "liberty and justice for all." He certainly believes in social justice for everyone. He is more than willing to meet with anyone who would like to discuss his work on the Police Commission as well as moving the community forward. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy thanked everyone for allowing him to make this statement.

Chairman Gourd thanked Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy for his statement and commented that Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy has invited anyone who would like to share additional thoughts and conversation the opportunity to sit down with Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy for a one to one discussion. Chairman Gourd stated that the town and the country are moving into a new era of social and cultural awareness. Not everyone makes the journey at the same pace or looks at the evolving norms from the same place. The Stonington Board of Police Commissioners does not condone discrimination whether it is in the press or on social media nor do they believe that it is constructive to make disparaging remarks of someone due to their race, religion, sexual orientation or immigration status. Chairman Gourd further stated that change is seldom easy or a comfortable process, we can do better as a town, as boards and as commissions. The way to effect change is not to vilify on social media or in the press the people that

you do not agree with. According to Chairman Gourd, if you want to make a change, get involved, sign up for boards and commissions and steer change from within. Ask how and why organizations operate the way they do.

The Board of Police Commissioners would like to follow up on what was proposed by the Board of Selectwomen at their last meeting, specifically that all boards and commissions leadership positions throughout the Town of Stonington engage in sensitivity and bias training. According to Chairman Gourd, we can move forward in good faith to gain better understanding of individual differences and embrace the value of a diverse community. The Board of Police Commissioners supports a proposal to codify a town-wide code of conduct. Chairman Gourd stated that what maybe thought of as acceptable practice or behavior to one person may be offensive to others. Chairman Gourd specified that they are not trying to regulate behavior or stifle race speech but to make people more aware of the impacts of one's words and actions. According to Chairman Gourd, this is an essential first step in effecting change that will benefit the entire community. Stonington is ahead of many communities. In 1974, the Board of Selectmen formally detached the Board of Police Commission from its operating chain of command in order to depoliticize the running of the Police Department. Chairman Gourd commented that applications for the Board of Police Commission are reviewed by the Board of Selectmen. The applicants are interviewed and appointed by the Board of Selectmen. He further noted that the Board of Police Commissioners are an independent, civilian operating oversite board and rather than having a single Commissioner oversee the hiring, firing and the management of property, equipment and budgetary matters, they are a commission of five. The Chair only gets to vote to break a tie.

Chairman Gourd thanked everyone for their attention and he opened the meeting to the public for comments, limited to two minutes, on any matters not otherwise in tonight's agenda.

3. Remarks of Public

Bill Coyle, 32 Willow Street & 22 East Main Street, Mystic

Mr. Coyle commented on the new traffic pattern and parking in Downtown Mystic. He has owned 32 Willow Street & 22 East Main Street for many years and the other day it took forty minutes to back out of his driveway. He feels the Police Commission's decision to change the traffic pattern was very poor. He noted that people are confused on Willow Street heading north, and they were making two lanes to turn either left or right onto East Main Street thinking Willow Street is only one-way out, however, Willow Street is a two-lane road. Mr. Cole further stated that if any emergency vehicle had to get down Willow Street, they would not be able to do so and the Town may be held liable. He feels that all the traffic on Jackson Ave and Willow Street to gain a few spots lost in the original streetscape redesign is a disaster. Mr. Coyle feels that Cottrell Street should be changed back to two-way.

Chairman Gourd thanked Mr. Coyle and stated that he appreciates his comments.

Martha Crum, Willow Street, Mystic

Ms. Crum commented on Facebook posting. She is quite concerned about them, apology notwithstanding. She stated that this raises the larger issue of accountability. Ms. Crum was surprised that the Board of Selectwomen do not have authority over the Police Commissioners so she questioned, who are the Police Commissioners accountable to? It seems to her that they are accountable to no one and in an era that police accountability has become such a huge issue, she is wondering where in the contract that the police union has negotiated with the Town to understand what the issues of accountability are when things that are deemed inappropriate are either said or done.

Chairman Gourd thanked Ms. Crum for her comments and he clarified that the police union is completely separate from the Police Commission and the two are unrelated. The legislation, according to Chairman Gourd, that created the Police Commission did not make any provisions for a change in management. He further stated that the Police Commissioners serve five-year terms and they rotate through. There are some exceptions for filling vacancies. The Police Commissioners are ultimately accountable to the people.

Glenn Cox, 35 & 37 Willow Street, Mystic

Mr. Cox informed the Police Commissioners that he is starting to see a lot of large trucks going down willow from Route 1 and if there is oncoming traffic it causes cars to get up on the sidewalk or be redirected down Haley Street. He knows that buses are restricted but tractor trailers are coming down the street. Employees are also parking all along the street. Another safety issue, according to Mr. Cox is that he cannot safely get out of his driveway due to increased traffic and vehicles disregarding the yellow lines painted around his driveway entrance. He further noted that, when pulling out of Willow Street onto Route 1, he has almost hit pedestrians who cross without regard for exiting vehicles. Mr. Cox noted that all these issues have existed prior to the Cottrell Street change, however, he feels they have increased and he would like the Police Commission to take these concerns under consideration.

Chairman Gourd thanked Mr. Cox for his comments. He further instructed Mr. Cox to call the police if his driveway is blocked. Chairman Gourd noted there was a lot of traffic over the holiday weekend, however, he is not entirely sure that Cottrell Street being one way was the sole contributor to the traffic backup. Chairman Gourd reminded that the Cottrell Street change is a provisional change and the Police Commission is giving it a two-year trial period, however, the Police Commission appreciated all the input and will register this information. He further noted that, if in eighteen months, it is found that this is a direct reflection of Cottrell Street change, they will take remedial action.

Joseph Trelli, 19 Rossi Ave, Pawcatuck

Mr. Trelli commented on Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy's Facebook posts. He stated that he is a young father and he is very concerned with some of the comments that were made in the post. Mr. Trelli noted that he has a profound respect for the police and police service and he appreciates what Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy has done with his life, however, when he saw the posts his jaw dropped. Mr. Trelli stated that he is all about difference of opinion and he loves debating with people with different views, but he feels these are not classic conservative views, these are things that really speak to a dark underbelly of the far right and they are deeply concerning. He assumes that Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy is an Irish American and he noted that people were saying the same offensive things when the Irish were immigrating to America. Mr. Trelli appreciated everything Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated, however, he feels the Facebook postings are a slap in the face to what Mr. Trelli feels Stonington is all about. Mr. Trelli also thinks there is more to this than a simple apology at the beginning of the meeting.

Chairman Gourd thanked Mr. Trelli for his comments and suggested that Mr. Trelli reach out and sit down with Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy. Chairman Gourd gave further instruction on how to contact Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy.

Jason Hine, Mystic

Mr. Hine stated that he appreciates all the comments and for Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy's apology. He noted that, for those who were truly offended by the posts and who work closely with people in minority communities, that his apology goes a long way. Mr. Hine asked, what do we do now? He is concerned that the posts have a longer lasting effect. Mr. Hine revealed that he has heard from a lot of

minorities and that they feel that Stonington is not a welcoming place for them. Mr. Hine stated that he was surprised to hear that since he does not necessarily see it but he is beginning to understand. In light of the posts, Mr. Hine asked if there is more that the Police Commission can do to help those that may have been dissuaded from participating and if there are ways to reach out to get more minorities members involved.

Chairman Gourd thanked Mr. Hine and noted that he makes some good points. He reiterated that everyone is welcome and invited to participate. The Town welcomes and thrives on volunteer participation, committees and boards. The Board of Police Commission applications are being accepted through the end of this month and interviews will be taking place in October. Chairman Gourd stated that we all have an opportunity to take advantage of this and the leadership from Board of Selectwomen with the goal to bring to the forefront a formal bias training and raising consciousness and awareness amongst the leadership in the Town will hopefully move things along the right path.

4. New Business

a. Rules & Regulations Proposal Tabled.

b. Approval of Bid Waiver for Strobes N' More *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chief Stewart, Strobes N' More is the company the Police Department uses to upfit the cruisers and has used them every year for close to a decade. He recommends that the Board of Police Commissioners approve the bid waiver for Strobes N' More for the upfit of the cruisers. Chief Stewart noted that the bid is in line with past bids. He further mentioned that Lieutenant Schneider works closely with Strobes N' More on a variety of items.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to request a bid waiver from Strobes N' More to upfit the new vehicles. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Planning & Zoning Application: WinnDevelopment Company LP – 27 West Broad Street & 15 Coggswell Street, Pawcatuck (Campbell Grain Building) *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Bill Sweeney, Land Use Attorney, Representing WinnDevelopment Company LP
Matt Robayna, Project Manager, WinnDevelopment Company LP
Adam Stein, Senior Vice President, WinnDevelopment Company LP
Paul Vitaliano, Project Civil Engineer, VHB, Inc.
Joseph Balskus, Professional Traffic Engineer, VHB, Inc.

Mr. Sweeney informed the Police Commissioners that he represents WinnDevelopment, LLC and they are proposing an 82-unit apartment at the former Campbell Grain Mill property which has been submitted under the Connecticut Affordable Housing statute and is pending to go before Planning and Zoning next Tuesday. Mr. Sweeney provided some background on the site and gave an introduction to the project. He further stated that Mr. Vitaliano will walk the Police Commissioners through the site plan and layout, the access points, circulation and the proposed traffic pattern and parking. Mr. Balskus has completed a traffic impact study and discussed with the Police Commission the anticipated traffic generation and shared offsite traffic improvements along West Broad Street upon CT DOT approval.

Mr. Sweeney began with noting that the old grain mill was damaged during the 2010 flooding. Mr. Vitaliano showed the existing conditions of the site, which is now vacant with only foundations

remaining, showing direct access off Coggswell Street with additional access via an easement over the adjacent property. The site is below the Amtrak rail line and along the Pawcatuck River. This has been a blighted property and underutilized since the mill came down. The area is a priority for economic development with affordable housing opportunities that can support the downtown businesses. According to Mr. Sweeney his client specializes in mixed use. The proposed development is a five-story building with a parking garage on the ground level and four-stories of housing. There will be ninety-two parking spaces and they will provide indoor and outdoor amenity space. Mr. Sweeney stated that they will be giving an easement to the Town to develop a river walk.

Mr. Sweeney further discussed that this is a mixed income project and all of the units are of same quality. Only a percentage of the units have income restrictions on them, the remainder will be leased at market rates. The average median income (AMI) for a four-person household in the Stonington area is \$91,800 and, to qualify as an affordable housing project they will require at least 30% of the units to be leased to households with an income of at least 80% of the AMI or approximately \$73,000. According to Mr. Sweeney, they are proposing 70% of the units will have some income restrictions and 30% will be leased at market value. This makes for a diverse and inclusive project. They will use federal low-income tax credits to help finance the project, which will provide reasonably affordable housing and will allow people opportunities to live in the Town of Stonington. According to Mr. Sweeney, this is a modest project and will have a small impact on traffic. It will help the businesses in the area and have a positive impact on the revitalization in Pawcatuck.

Mr. Vitaliano stated that the main access to the development will be via Coggswell Street, however, there is an easement for use of the adjacent alleyway. Mr. Vitaliano stated that there will be ninety-three parking spaces total and forty-four of those spaces will be outside. They have planned for a sidewalk to connect to Coggswell Street. There will be outdoor access to green space along the Pawcatuck River. This company owns and maintains all their properties which will benefit tenants since any issues will be addressed quickly. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked if there will be a restriction on how many parking spaces each unit will have? Mr. Robayna expects to have a limit of one car per unit on-site as required by the zoning regulations in Pawcatuck for multi-family units, however, if there are issues with this restriction, they will readdress the issue. Mr. Sweeney stated that the zoning for Pawcatuck requires one space per unit and this project provides ninety-three spaces so they are in compliance. Commissioner Tabor asked to clarify why the application states that they do not conform with parking location requirements when Mr. Sweeney stated that they do comply? Mr. Sweeney stated that they comply with the number of parking spaces, however, they do not comply due to the fact that some of the parking is located in front of the building. Under Section 8-30g of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Connecticut Affordable Housing Appeals Act, they are not required to comply since they are allowed the flexibility needed to encourage more affordable housing. Mr. Sweeney noted that the towns can get a waiver or place a moratorium on this type of development, however, Stonington has not. Under normal circumstances, the burden is on the applicant to prove to Planning and Zoning that they are in compliance. With Affordable Housing, the burden is shifted to the Town. Mr. Sweeney stated that the Town must approve the project unless there is substantial evidence of a public safety or health threat as a result of the project. Mr. Sweeney noted that they have done their best to comply with all the zoning regulations that they can and they encourage comments and suggestions from the community to bring a blighted property into something productive.

Mr. Balskus presented that, for the traffic study, they looked at the two intersections Coggswell Street at West Broad Street and Mechanic Street at West Broad Street. He noted that there are no traffic signals close to this area. Travel speeds are at a high of 30mph. There are also high yielding rates due to

pedestrians crossing. Mr. Balskus noted that there are restrictive site line issues at the Coggswell Street intersection. The crash data revealed five crashes per year, and they are mostly rear-end collisions. Mr. Balskus noted that there are issues with the Mechanic Street intersection. After contacting the CT DOT, the State is taking a renewed interest in the Route 1 intersection with Route 2. Mr. Balskus commented that they found no change in the level of service of the above-mentioned intersections as a result of this proposed application, however, there will be a small increase in queuing at the Coggswell Street intersection. Mr. Balskus observed that they will need to address the site line issues at Coggswell Street since there are left turn difficulties, a need for a reduced crosswalk length, recommendations to restripe West Broad Street and create bypass left turn lane from West Broad Street onto Coggswell Street. Commissioner Tabor questioned if the alleyway will continue to be two way and how frequently will it be used? They are not proposing any changes to the alleyway as Coggswell Street is a better entrance and exit site. They do not feel the alleyway will be used as a cut through since improvements will be made to the Coggswell Street intersection. Mr. Sweeney also noted that the alleyway is owned by the adjacent property.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked Chief Stewart to comment on moving the locations of the existing crosswalks on West Broad Street. Chief Stewart expressed his concerns with moving the crosswalk stating that drivers making a left-hand turn from Coggswell Street onto West Broad Street will need to be mindful of traffic heading in both directions and with pedestrians crossing West Broad Street. Chief Stewart was also concerned that in moving the crosswalk, some parking spaces will have to be eliminated. Mr. Balskus answered that with the current position of the crosswalk, a driver taking a right turn is not looking across the crosswalk for pedestrians. In relocating the crosswalk, Mr. Balskus commented that they will be removing two pedestrian conflicts and will now have only one conflict. Chief Stewart pointed out that the new placement will still have two conflicts. Mr. Balskus rebutted that the crosswalk placement change will result in a safer conflict than what exists today. They will also be reducing the crosswalk crossing distance and noted that they will not be impacting parking in front of Bogue's Alley.

Chairman Gourd asked if Mr. Sweeney knows if they have any plans in place for a BDA? Mr. Sweeney stated that they will work with Chief Stewart and a BDA is open to discussion. Mr. Robayna commented that they are no strangers to the BDA system and they will also work with the local fire marshal. Chairman Gourd stated that he raised this issue since he has heard similar promises. He also noted that they it costs a lot of money to retrofit for the BDA system. Mr. Sweeney noted that it would be an appropriate comment for the Police Commission to send to Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Tabor questioned why they are asking for a waiver for the school impact study, and, assuming that there will be children residing at this complex, where will the school bus drop off and pickup be located? Mr. Sweeney commented that the request for the waiver does not mean that there will not be school aged children residing at this complex. They will have to work with the Board of Education to make a safe place for the pickup and drop off of school children. Mr. Sweeney further explained what the waiver refers to in this application. Mr. Sweeney commented that Stonington is a targeted community and he is confident that they will be selected for the CHFA bonding. Commissioner Tabor pointed out that Stonington has not achieved the max of 10% affordable housing but the Town is at 6%, which, to Commissioner Tabor, is pretty good compared to other communities in the area. Mr. Sweeney stated the Town of Stonington took the initiative to invest in critical properties downtown and the local business community is in favor of this project.

Chairman Gourd questioned the turn radius and emergency vehicle access. Mr. Sweeney worked with Chief Burns and will have sign offs from both fire marshals and the town engineer. Mr. Vitaliano stated that the secondary access was important to the Fire Chief, however, they still need to work with the Chief on size of the fire vehicles.

Chief Stewart addressed the importance of cameras with Mr. Sweeney outside in parking lots and for the fencing along tracks. Mr. Sweeney commented that the property is set back away from tracks and the tracks will not be accessible from the property. He further commented that all WinnDevelopment projects have security cameras. Cameras are a definite benefit to the residents.

Commissioner Turner feels this project will be great for the community. He recommends that the crosswalks on West Broad Street need to incorporate any safety features that are possible as they are very difficult to navigate. Mr. Balskus stated that they can take a look at the latest and greatest on crosswalk controls.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to support the Planning and Zoning application for WinnDevelopment Company, LP with regard to the development at 27 West Broad Street at 15 Cogswell Street, subject to the developer making provisions for a BDA during the construction process and periodically testing the communication quality through the construction process; and, subject to approval of the fire marshal regarding access and maneuverability of emergency fire equipment; and confirmation that crosswalks be fitted with the latest controls and alerts to maximize safety. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy. Discussion: Chief Stewart noted that the Police Commissioners are at the mercy of State DOT as to what crosswalk signals will be allowed in this area, and also if the maintenance of such controls will be the responsibility of the Town. End discussion. Commissioner Turner amended the motion with regard to the crosswalks to state that if there is an opportunity to make amendments to the crosswalk, that they are fitted with State approved enhancements to maximize safety, and that the Police Commission does so with State approval. All in favor, motion approved.

d. Planning & Zoning Application: G Development LLC – 32 Broadway Avenue, Stonington
COMMENTS NEEDED

Sergio Cherenzia, Cherenzia & Associates, LTD

Mr. Cherenzia informed the Police Commissioners that his client is G Development, LLC and the application is for a proposed restaurant located at 32 Broadway Ave. The site is currently occupied by gas station and is adjacent to the Fire Department. It is located at the corner of Washington Street and Broadway Ave. Mr. Cherenzia showed the existing condition of the site and noted that the gas tanks have been removed. Currently there are two curb cuts on Broadway Ave and another curb cut on Washington Street. The site is within a flood hazard zone. Mr. Cherenzia has applied for a special use permit for the proposed restaurant, stating that the proposed 1700sqft building will be elevated with space underneath to be used for additional parking. They will be making the site one-way in and one-way out. Mr. Cherenzia noted that they plan to move the entrance off Washington Street further way from the corner of Washington Street and Broadway Ave. Traffic will flow one-way underneath the building and then one-way out onto Broadway Ave. They will increase the green space while leaving the integrity of the sidewalk in the front along Broadway Ave. The proposed project will be a restaurant with a rooftop deck. Mr. Cherenzia noted that the previous use as gas/service station compared to a restaurant shows a reduction of trips, 526 trips compared to it previously being at 674 trips on daily basis.

Chairman Gourd questioned how many seats to which Mr. Cherenzia stated one hundred and nine seats which includes the rooftop bar. The plan is for the rooftop to be more of a lounge accommodating seventeen people with ninety-two seats in the restaurant. There are fifteen parking spaces on-site and they are currently looking to do offsite parking. According to Mr. Cherenzia, offsite parking has not been identified yet. Chairman Gourd commented that the parking issues are concerning.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked how many employees are expected and where will they park? Mr. Cherenzia stated that there will be eight employees and they will need to accommodate for them with onsite spaces. Commissioner Tabor noted that he has concerns with employees parking onsite since overflow parking will be pushed into the surrounding, residential area which is a growing issue in Town. Mr. Cherenzia gave no definitive answer for an off-site parking plan. It was noted that the closest crosswalks across Broadway Ave are located by the CVS and by the train station. Commissioner Tabor asked where will staging be for the demolition and construction? Mr. Cherenzia stated that it would have to be done onsite. Commissioner Tabor noted that if staging is done across the street it would create a traffic issue.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked if there are plans for music on the rooftop lounge? Mr. Cherenzia stated that there are no current plans, however, he received comments from Mr. Brynes (P&Z) and it may be required to conduct a noise study.

Commissioner Tabor extends his thank you to Mr. Brynes and Planning and Zoning for providing information to the Police Commission to clarify issues. Planning and Zoning provided a list of general concerns from Planning and Zoning that need to be satisfied. Commissioner Tabor stated these unanswered questions makes it difficult for the Board of Police Commissioners to make a reasonable proposal of support to what is being presented. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy agreed. Offsite parking is prohibited in this zone, however, according to Mr. Cherenzia, the provision in the reduction does allow for offsite parking. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy thinks the applicant needs to come back and be able to better answer the Police Commissioners questions.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning and Zoning; that the Police Commission has strong concerns about the lack of identified parking. Motion seconded by Commission Elmer. Discussion: Commissioner Turner noted that he also has concerns with overflow parking encroaching on the nursing home parking lot and in the neighborhood. Commissioner Elmer noted that the Police Commission has already heard about traffic concerns on Willow Street and Jackson Avenue from the residents. Chief Stewart noted that there are still unresolved things that the Police Commission has not yet addressed, for example BDA, cameras, lighting, etc. Chief Stewart recommends sending the motion as stated adding that if the parking issue is resolved on the Planning and Zoning end, that the applicant will come back to the Board of Police Commissioners for further comments on the rest of the application regarding parking, safety and traffic issues that have not all been addressed. Chief Stewart gave examples; that the crosswalks need State DOT approvals and he noted that the State removed the crosswalk at Washington Street during the last streetscape project. Commissioner Tabor commented that he is not satisfied with all the answers given tonight and he is not in favor of passing along any comments, he prefers to see the item tabled. Mr. Cherenzia stated that it is a reasonable request to come back before the Police Commission and he asked for specific questions from the Commission. Chief Stewart suggested that individual Commissioners send him their questions by Wednesday and he will forward them to Mr. Cherenzia. Chief Stewart noted for Mr. Cherenzia to keep in mind that the Police Commission's purview is parking, traffic and safety and he gave examples of each.

Commissioner Tabor notes a safety concern with pedestrians and also the lack of parking which will push parking into residential areas and he noted the left turn from Washington Street into the parking lot as a possible issue and asked how will they stop vehicles from entering the lot from Broadway Ave.? Mr. Cherenzia can show how the proposed queuing on Washington Street will play out and that they will combat wrong way entry with appropriate signage. Commissioner Turner amended the previous motion and tabled sending comments to Planning and Zoning and added that all the Commissioners will submit additional comments and concerns to Chief Stewart by Wed. Sept. 16th to forward to the applicant and then to Planning and Zoning. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor, all in favor, motion approved.

e. CT Cycling Advancement Family Bike Event *VOTE NEEDED*

Harrison Macris, CEO, Co-Founder, Princeton CarbonWorks, 8 Summit Street, Mystic

Mr. Macris informed the Police Commission that the CT Cycling Advancement Program (CCAP) is a nonprofit organization based out of Middletown, CT. They would like to host a Mystic Cyclocross Training Series on Mr. Macris' property at 8 Summit Street utilizing a small bike trail loop around the property. Parking will be provided on the field on the property. According to Mr. Macris, it will be a two to three-hour event from 9am – noon on Saturday October 24th and 31st. All Covid-19 protocols are in place and there is sufficient access for emergency vehicles.

Chairman Gourd asked about how many parking spaces there will be to which Mr. Macris stated that there are 15 lined spots in the parking lot and they also have a field on-site that will be used for parking. The bike trail will be within the property lines. Mr. Macris noted that this is a well-run organization that wants to get this practice event in the area. They do not expect more than one hundred riders and approximately thirty to fifty vehicles. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy questioned the statement in the paperwork in the Police Commissioners packet regarding overflow parking on street with approval from the town. Mr. Macris stated that it is important to keep all parking within the site and he does not promote parking on the surrounding streets. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked about how they will handle any injuries and how will they gain access to the site? Mr. Macris believes they have their own EMT's. Commissioner Tabor suggests Mr. Macris reach out to the neighbors to inform them prior to the event.

Chief Stewart asked if all the bikes will be on the property and not on the roadway to which Mr. Macris replied they will not be on the roadway. Chief Stewart mentioned that if Covid-19 protocols are still in effect in October, Mr. Macris may need to verify the restrictions with Ledge Light before the event. Chief Stewart further commented that informing the neighbors results in better neighbor relations. He also stated that no police presence will be necessary. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy noted that currently, outdoor events are limited to one hundred people, including staff.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the CT Cycling Advancement Family Bike Event as presented. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

5. Traffic / Boating

a. E-Mail Re: Traffic Issue – Smith Street, Pawcatuck *POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chief Stewart noted that there was an email regarding a parking issue on Smith Street, Pawcatuck. There is already a "No Parking from Here to Corner" sign, however, the issue is on the north side of the street where it intersects with Liberty Street. The yellow paint is not along the entire curb to show there is no

parking. Chief Stewart will contact Town Highway to repaint the yellow line for the entire twenty-five-foot section in front of the stop sign.

b. E-Mail Re: Trumbull & North Water Intersection & Boat Issue at Small Boat Association *POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the intersection of Trumbull Ave and North Water St does not support a stop sign. The only real solution would be to put a stop sign at the end of Cutler St. Chief Stewart is not in favor in putting in a stop sign to correct a speed issue. It may be beneficial to remove a parking spot to create a better site line. Chief Stewart does not recall an accident at that intersection in a while.

Chief Stewart suggests the Police Commissioners take a look at that intersection. Chairman Gourd noted that he goes through that intersection every day, one can see to make the turn, however, it is necessary to pay attention.

Chief Stewart stated there is an issue with a boat at the Town Dock. It is not on a trailer and Chief Stewart will ask the highway department to remove it and relocate it to the impound lot and the Department will advertise it in order to find the owner.

c. Letter Re: Speeding – Lord’s Point
FYI on speeding.

d. Mechanic Street Traffic Summary Report

Chief Stewart noted that the average speeds are close to the speed limit.

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, August 13, 2020 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, August 13, 2020 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

According to Chief Stewart, there were two armed robberies this past week. He will be adding a Use of Force and Use of Force Reports to be included as an item on the Chief’s report. Chief Stewart noted that there were none to report for the last month.

a. Budget Report

Chief Stewart stated that the Department has had some larger cases resulting in using 21% of the overtime budget. He commented that there have been three retirements, however, the promotion for Sergeant will take place next month.

b. Monthly Statistics

There have been 111 suspicious vehicles which is an increase from 72 this time last year. There were 35 pistol permit applications processed last month compared to the 5 that were processed August of last year. This shows a 150% increase in pistol permit applicants. There were 48 larcenies, 25 were larcenies from motor vehicles. The Department put out 4 Everbridges (reverse 911) encouraging residents to lock their cars and remove valuables.

c. Alarm Report

d. Special Event Schedule

e. Boat Grant

According to Chief Stewart, Lieutenant Schneider applied for a grant to completely update the police boat's electronics. This is a grant where the federal government pays 75% and the Town pays 25%. Chief Stewart stated that the Department will sell the old equipment to recover approximately 50-75% of the value of the Town's 25% match. Ultimately, the Town could get \$50,000 worth of equipment for under \$10,000. Commissioner Tabor noted that the Chairman of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission recently informed the Police Commission that they have funds available for increased patrols with the police boat. He suggests reaching out to them to maybe make up some of the differential of the 25% of the Town's portion. Chief Stewart noted that the police boat has been out in the water and the new hire will soon be trained on the boat.

f. Adoption of a Temporary Body Cam Policy *POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chief Stewart noted that the Department has received three body cameras to try. He commented that they will need to do a lot of programming in order to set up the cameras and they also need to create a camera policy. Chief Stewart suggests taking the narrative from Groton Town's current policy. Chief Stewart recommends that the Police Commission give the Chief authority to implement this policy temporarily during this trial period. He further asked that one of the Commissioners come in and view the video images. Chief Stewart wants the Police Commissioners involved in the purchase.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to adopt a temporary body cam policy based off of Groton Town's existing policy until a more formalized Stonington policy can be developed during our trial run of the three body cameras. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. Discussion: Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy commented that he is familiar with Groton Town's policy and feels it is fine to use during the trials. End discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart will be going to the Board of Finance in the next couple months as an informational presentation on the boat grant and the body cameras, which will be mandatory since it will be a state law.

g. Letter Re: Officer Brummund Retirement from Reserves

According to Chief Stewart, Reserve Officer Brummund will be retiring as a reserve officer. This is an FYI for the Police Commissioners.

h. LiveScan Device Transfer Agreement

Chief Stewart made the Board of Police Commissioners aware of the State of Connecticut's request to enter into an MOU with them regarding the Livescan (fingerprint machine).

i. Sergeant Promotional Process

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commissioners that eleven officers applied for the Sergeant position. The written exam will be on September 22nd and a week later they will hold an oral board. At the next Police Commission meeting, they will have interviews for the Sergeant candidates. Chief Stewart mentioned that they may be asking to create another sergeant's position to help spread out the Sergeant's duties. All these added administrative responsibilities detract from the main duty of the Sergeant which is to supervise. Chief Stewart briefly discussed the promotion process. The Police Commissioners decided that they will hold a special meeting to conduct interviews instead of doing so at the regular monthly meeting. Chief Stewart will post a special meeting for October 6th at 4pm. Chief

Stewart asked the Police Commissioners to come up with some questions before the meeting. He further noted that the Police Commission will be developing the future leadership of the Department.

Commissioner Tabor suggested investigating the possible options of hiring someone at lower paygrade to take on some of the Sergeant administrative duties.

j. Post Security Award Grant

FYI boat grant.

k. CIP Requests

Chief Stewart stated that he needs to submit the CIP Requests to the Town in next two weeks for items over \$15,000 and he asked the Police Commissioners to reach out with any questions since the requests still can be modified, changed or updated.

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commissioners that he has received a request from a retiree to come back and utilize the gym. Chief Stewart would need a policy change in order to accommodate this request. Commissioner Turner stated that it seems like a good idea but maybe a release would have to be signed. Chief Stewart feels that even with a release, this could be opening up a liability. He suggested checking with legal and will put this request on the agenda. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy commented that the State allows retirees to use the gyms, however, the gyms are not in the stations like Stonington's facility.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to accept the Report of the Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Thank You Note: Family of Paul Mitchell

b. E-Mail Re: Approved Traffic Items

c. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Hersh

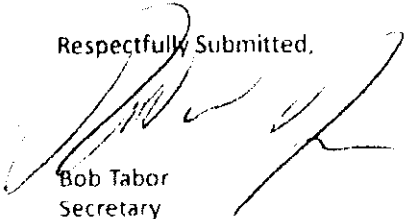
Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

9. Adjourn

At 8:33pm Commissioner Turner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Elmer, all in favor, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,


Bob Tabor
Secretary