

October 13, 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 were present. No members of the press were present.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Interviews – Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors

The Board interviewed Eugene Pfeifer for the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors.

(4) Interviews – Planning and Zoning Commission

The Board interviewed Andy Meek and Marjorie Selinger for the Planning and Zoning Commission's alternate seats.

(5) Comments from the Selectmen

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to move a portion of the comments from the Selectmen up on the agenda.

Ms. Chesebrough stated that she wanted to share some insights prior to comments from the public as often times members of the public are unable to stay through the meeting to hear information under comments from the selectmen. She reflected on the past referendum and historic vote that took place noting that no matter what side of the project residents were on the hope is that all can continue to come together as a community. She stated that she has communicated with Winn Development that given the results of the referendum and the great importance of respecting the democratic process, the Town will not pursue any alternative funding options to make up for the funding requested as part of the fixed assessment. She added that she does not know what Winn Development will do moving forward but will keep the community informed along the way.

(6) Comments from the Public

- Leslie Driscoll of Pawcatuck, noted she is a member of the Architectural Design Review Board and gave an overview of the importance of design in architecture.
- Janis Mink, Pawcatuck, shared her thoughts on the importance of global warming and building structures in a flood plain.
- Matt Beaudoin of Pawcatuck, shared his appreciation of the leadership and guidance shown by the Board of Selectman and Town in regards to COVID.
- Lisa Konicki of Pawcatuck, shared her thoughts on the important work that is done by the Economic Development Commission noting that they are all dedicated, well intentioned volunteers who she believes were treated unfairly through social media in response to the Campbell Grain Development. She noted that in her professional role she works with many surrounding Economic Development Commissions and has found Stonington's commission to be exceptional.
- Micheal Vacca of Pawcatuck, agreed with statements made by Lisa Konicki and the First Selectman but also found the quotes made after the referendum by the First Selectman and the Chair of the Economic Development Commission to be disappointing.
- Ben Tamsky of Mystic, stated that over 2,700 people of all geographic areas and political parties voted to overturn the vote taken at Town Meeting and felt people were well informed. He added that he felt the Economic Development Commission have to many additional special meetings which

makes it difficult to be involved. He also was disappointed by the statements made by the Chairperson of the Economic Development Commission.

- Linda Camelio of Pawcatuck, stated that part of the misinformation was that there is a difference between a fixed assessment and a tax abatement. She encouraged all to get involved earlier in the processes by attending board/commission meetings. She added that she believes workforce/affordable housing is needed throughout the town.
- Ms. Chesebrough thanked everyone for their comments and noted that in the future she will ensure she is more specific in her comments to the press and not generalize her statements.

(7) Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the joint WPCA/Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes of September 20, 2021.
- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 22, 2021.

(8) Correspondence

- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Patricia Coan in the form of an application for the Police Commission.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Rick Newton on behalf of the Climate Change Task Force outlining their capital improvement and budget requests for 2022-2023. The information has been forwarded to the CIP Committee and Finance Department.

(9) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Shellfish Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Robert Hollis as an alternate member of the Shellfish Commission.

Reappointment – Waterfront Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Robert Guzzo and Eugene Pfeifer to the Waterfront Commission.

(10) Old Business

None

(11) New Business

Discussion – Community Discussion Series

Ms. Chesebrough shared an idea with the Board regarding a community discussion series to allow the Board of Selectman to hold a more informal meeting with the public to include broader topics and more open dialogue. She added that the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center will host the meetings and a moderator will oversee the discussions. Ms. Strunk and Ms. Downie both thought it was a good idea. Further discussion on the topic will be held in the future.

Discussion – Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee Update

Ms. Chesebrough gave an update on the Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee stating that they have been very helpful in finding ways for the Town to improve communication with residents. She gave an overview of the results of a survey that the committee created including but not limited to the following:

Out of the 140 respondents 92% knew we had a town website, 60% knew we had social media pages, 84% knew about the Stonington Events Magazine, 58% knew about the Everbridge alerts system and 83% thought a monthly newsletter summarizing Town projects would be helpful. Ms. Chesebrough noted that a newsletter may be piloted from the First Selectman's office.

Resolution – Brownfield Grant Application (Mystic River Boathouse Park)

Ms. Chesebrough stated that the resolution authorizes the First Selectman to execute and file the Brownfield Grant application with CT DEEP in regards to the Mystic River Boathouse Park project.

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

Discussion - Municipal Acceptance of Partial Road Parcel at W. Enterprise and Parkwood Drive

Keith Brynes, Town Planner, provided an overview of this request stating the developer of the Rockridge Subdivision has requested the Board accept two leftover portions of the roadways associated with the development. All of the roads for this development were supposed to be conveyed by the Town in 2018, however, W. Enterprise and Parkwood Drive were mistakenly left out of the deeds.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to accept the partial road parcels at W. Enterprise and Parkwood Drive.

Request – Building Permit Fee Waiver for Mystic Fire Department

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to waive the building permit fees associated with the roof replacement at the Mystic Fire Department in the amount of \$1,068.00.

Discussion – 2022 Meeting Schedule

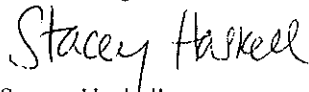
A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the 2022 Board of Selectmen meeting schedule of the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at the Stonington Police Department.

(12) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie gave an overview of the meetings she attended including the joint WPCA/Board of Selectmen and Beautification Committee. She noted that recent vandalism occurred to the planters on Stillman Bridge which is an ongoing problem. The Beautification Committee continues to seek volunteers. The Mystic River Boathouse Park and Stillman projects continue to move forward. She noted that October is breast cancer awareness month and shared the importance of getting screened.
- Ms. Strunk gave an overview of meetings she has attended including the Commission on Aging, Planning and Zoning Commission and Climate Change Task Force. She noted that the Commission on Aging will be working in collaboration with the Mystic Geriatric Institute to hold a caregiver conference in February. In regards to the Climate Change Task Force, they have submitted CIP and Budget requests. The Board of Selectmen will be holding a joint meeting with the Climate Change Task Force in the coming weeks.
- Ms. Chesebrough thanked Ms. Downie for all of the time and effort she has devoted to the Mystic Boathouse Park and Stillman projects. She noted that she had a positive meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office at the Boathouse Park property. She stated that weekly onsite case management is occurring at the Elm Tree Inn and work continues in assisting the homeless population at Donahue Park. The Veterans Monument Project has raised \$46,000 of the \$180,000 needed.

(13) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary