

October 23, 2019

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Rob Simmons, Selectman John Prue and Selectwoman Jocelyn Kepple. Also, present were members of the public. Members of the press were not present.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Commendation

The commendation will take place at a future meeting.

(4) Comments from the Public

- Mr. Ben Tamsky spoke in support of moving Mr. Frederick Deichmann from an alternate to a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

(5) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the October 9, 2019 regular meeting minutes. The motion passed with Mr. Simmons and Ms. Kepple voting in favor and Mr. Prue abstaining.
- A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the October 15, 2019 special meeting minutes.

(6) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Ocean Community YMCA regarding the one-year anniversary of the Naik Family Branch and thanking the Town for support of project.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Lighthouse Museum Campaign inviting the Selectmen to attend their groundbreaking ceremony on October 26, 2019.

(7) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Planning and Zoning Commission

- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Ms. Kepple and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Frederick Deichmann to the Planning and Zoning Commission moving him from an alternate to a regular member.
- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Ms. Kepple and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Charles Sheehan and Mr. C. Ryan Deasy to the Planning and Zoning Commission as alternates.

Appointment – Board of Police Commission

- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Ms. Kepple and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. William Turner to the Board of Police Commission.

(8) Old Business

None

(9) New Business

Discussion – 75 Stillman Avenue Demolition and Clean Up

Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, gave an overview of the demolition and clean up efforts at 75 Stillman Avenue stating that they have been completed. In April, the building collapsed leaving the Town to conduct an emergency demolition and clean-up of the site. The site has been cleaned, stabilized, fenced and hydroseeded. He added that the Town came in under budget for the emergency project and is working on next steps as the property does not belong to the Town.

Discussion – Recommendation Regarding Approach to Alternatives Analysis for Stonington Breakwater Improvement Project

Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, and Mr. Bill Heiple of Stantec gave an overview Stonington Breakwater Improvement Project stating that the Town received a grant from the CT Port Authority to use towards rebuilding the breakwater. Stantec presented different alternative ideas on how to complete the rebuild. These alternatives were presented and discussed at community meetings as well as to the Stonington Harbor Management Commission (SHMC). The SHMC is overseeing the project and voted unanimously to approve alternative #4 with a complete design to allow support in the future of a walkway/viewing area.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to endorse the recommendation of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission to move forward with alternative #4 with a complete design to allow support in the future of a walkway/viewing area.

Discussion – Distressed Property Lien Waiver Request 2-4 Mechanic Street

Mr. Simmons gave an overview of the request stating that in May, 2018 the Board of Selectmen had ceased accumulating any further fines on the 2-4 Mechanic Street property leaving a balance of \$59,900. Fines had been issued since 2016 when the former owner was in violation of the distressed premises ordinance. When the property transferred to a new owner, Mr. Jim Lathrop, the fines transfer with it. In June of 2018, the Board waived \$27,000 in fines leaving a balance of \$32,900 which was based on a reduction at the rate of \$1 for every \$2 of private investment spent. Since June of 2018, the property owner has completed permitted work totaling \$32,288 and requested a reduction to the outstanding fine.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve a reduction of \$16,450 in blight lien fines at 2-4 Mechanic Street, Pawcatuck.

In discussion, Mr. Prue stated that he felt they were setting a precedent beyond a one-time deal and is concerned that this not be abused in the future. Mr. Prue hoped for more defined language. Mr. Simmons stated that the Planning and Zoning Department can put together a policy with the language that they have been following in the past. With no further discussion, the motioned carried.

Discussion – Distressed Property Lien Waiver Request 6 Mechanic Street

Mr. Simmons stated that 6 Mechanic Street is also owned by Mr. Lathrop and has outstanding fines in the amount of \$2,900. Mr. Lathrop stated that he is in the process of completing permitted work totaling \$3,500.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve a reduction of \$1,750 in blight lien fines at 6 Mechanic Street, Pawcatuck.

(10) Comments from the Public

None

(11) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Kepple thanked Mr. Scot Deledda and his team for everything they did at 75 Stillman Avenue.
- Mr. Prue apologized for missing the last meeting stating he was away on business and had issues with his return flight.

- Mr. Simmons discussed the Towns recent AAA Bond Rating and stated Stonington is one of twelve Towns in the State of Connecticut to receive that rating as well as the only Town in our area (east of the river) to receive the high rating.

(12) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Stacey Haskell

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Recording Secretary