

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 10, 2019
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Remarks of Public

Stephen Bessette, Resident, Mystic, CT

Mr. Bessette thanked the Police Department and the Administration for all their help regarding a recent issue.

3. New Business

a. Mystic Irish Parade 2019 *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chief Stewart, there are no changes to this event and he sees no issues.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the 2019 Mystic Irish Parade as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

****** At this time, Chairman Trebisacci invited First Selectman Rob Simmons to address the Police Commission. First Selectman Simmons congratulated the Police Department and the Administration for winning two CCM's Municipal Excellency Awards, the first for creating a system in conjunction with the IT Department which is designed to help locate individuals on the spectrum that may have wandered off, and the second award for the collaboration with the State of Connecticut in regard to the radio system. According to First Selectman Simmons, it is an extraordinary feat to win two CCM's Municipal Excellency Awards in a row. This has received state level attention and was announced to Governor Lamont.

First Selectman Simmons went on to note that the Boathouse project is a complicated project and the issues with parking are under consideration.

First Selectman Simmons noted that he values and appreciates the Police Department and the Police Commission and thanked them for their service. Chairman Trebisacci informed First Selectman Simmons that he and the Police Commission appreciate his comments and understand that the First Selectman is aware of the Police Commission's concerns regarding the Boathouse project.

**b. Planning & Zoning Site Plan & Groundwater Protection Permit Application – Perkins Farm Complex
*COMMENTS NEEDED***

David Lattizori, Lattizori Development, LLC
Matt Gilchrist, EG Home, LLC

Mr. Lattizori spoke to the Police Commission about the design changes for the townhouses. The new design provides a more simplified access. Mr. Gilchrist noted that they are targeting the young, first-time homebuyers and also active adults who are looking to downsize and maintenance free living. He went into some detail on the proposed floorplans.

There will be one entrance/exit and the road will be full width and two-lanes all around. There will be on-street parking, however, all overnight parking will be in the driveways or in the lots, not on the street. The fire department is pleased with the proposed access and have asked for emergency call boxes. The installation of cameras will be left up to the HOA. Mr. Lattizori noted that the cameras would be wireless.

Chief Stewart commented that there may be a need to sign the proposed dog park as private, for residents only, to deter the public from using it. According to Mr. Lattizori, they plan on posting signage to designate the rules and regulations of the dog park.

Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning; that there does not appear to be any adverse impacts to public safety, traffic, or parking at this time. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Planning & Zoning Subdivision & Groundwater Protection Permit Application – 126 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Harry Heller, Heller & McCoy
Kyle Haubert, CLA Engineers, Inc.
Joe Hastedt, AJ Holdings, LLC

According to Mr. Heller, they are proposing a 20-lot project at 126 South Broad Street. This would be a 1000' cul-de-sac and each lot would have a duplex, thereby, creating forty affordable housing units. They will also be making provisions for a possible future connection to the VFW property. According to Mr. Heller, they plan on having two fire hydrants, no curbs on the street and water will drain towards the wetlands. There will be one entrance/exit onto South Broad Street and the cul-de-sac will be two-way.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy inquired about the sightlines at South Broad Street. According to Mr. Haubert, they exceed the minimum DOT requirements. Chief Stewart commented that the proposed 20' width roadway is a bit narrow and will cause on-street parking issues. Mr. Heller noted that there is some flexibility in the proposed plans and they will take this into consideration. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy further commented that the cul-de-sac needs to be large enough for a fire truck to turn around. According to Mr. Heller, they have received comments from the Fire Department.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning; that the Police Commission would like to see a wider road than the twenty feet that was presented, that the cul-de-sac is made large enough for a fire truck to turn around and also, the Police Commission would like to see the development of a parking plan. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. Discussion: Chief Stewart noted that on a private road, the Police Department may not be able to

enforce parking, he suggests that one side of the street could be designated as a no parking, fire lane. No further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

d. Planning & Zoning Subdivision Application – Johnson Street, Pawcatuck *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Nick Kepple, Attorney

Paul Linehan, Linehan Custom Homes, Inc.

Attorney Kepple and Mr. Linehan discussed the proposed plans for the three-lot subdivision located on Johnson Street in Pawcatuck. This is currently a three-acre, wooded site. They propose building three homes, one on each lot. The lots are narrow but each have 100 feet of road frontage on Johnson Street. There is only one sightline issue for the first lot due to a crest in the road and a fence on an adjoining property. The simple solution would be to move the proposed driveway to the other side of the lot.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning; that there does not appear to be any adverse impacts to public safety or traffic at this time, however, the Police Commissioner's would like to see the proposed driveway on the first lot moved to the other side of the lot in order to improve sightlines. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

e. Planning & Zoning Site Plan Application – J&H Hospitality Mystic, LLC – 8 Coogan Boulevard, Mystic *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Greg Fedus, Fedus Engineering, LLC

Mr. Fedus informed the Police Commission that they are proposing a new restaurant at the old Boathouse restaurant site. The access and parking on this site have been a bit of a challenge. The upper floor will be a Mexican restaurant and the lower floor will be a take-out restaurant. They are also proposing adding a porch. There will be no live music outdoors. According to Mr. Fedus, they propose to move the driveway entrance to help alleviate the steepness and also, narrow the lane between the Holiday Inn and the restaurant to 24 feet. In order to do this, they will not lose any parking, the intention is to reduce speed. Mr. Fedus noted that they did eliminate some of the parking that did not have adequate access. Parking will be at a 90-degree angle which will be a significant improvement overall and there will be an increased number of spots in the lot. Most traffic will come in from Coogan Boulevard. Mr. Fedus does not foresee an increase in traffic on Village Farm Road.

In response to Commissioner Tabor's concerns on drainage, Mr. Fedus stated that they will be improving the present drainage.

According to Mr. Fedus, there will be a reduction of seats in the restaurant, however, there will be a slight difference to the traffic pattern due to the take-out option in the proposed plans. If necessary, they may need to put signage on a few spaces to designate take-out parking only, 10 or 15 minutes maximum.

Chief Stewart noted, if the restaurant is extremely successful, this could lead to parking issues on Village Farm Road. He suggests that they keep an eye on this and encourage people to park in the lot.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning; that there does not appear to be any adverse impacts to public safety, traffic or parking at this time. Further, this plan does not envision parking on Village Farm Road, however, if necessary, any

parking issues will be addressed by this Commission in the future. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

f. Letter Re: Heartsafe Sign Placement *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chief Stewart, this is a reoccurring request. Locations of the proposed signage were finally submitted, however, two of the proposed locations are on State property. Chief Stewart will reexamine the sign placement with the requestors.

Tabled.

4. Old Business (Tabled from December 13, 2018 Regular Meeting)

a. Revised Stonington Harbor Management Plan

Ed Smith, Stonington Borough Commission

Jay Spalding, Stonington Harbor Management Commission

This item is in regard to the "Slow, No Wake" zone at Sandy Point. According to Mr. Spalding, they worked with DEEP and had a legal review from the Town. They have added penalties and have clarified the area in question. Chief Stewart sent them some comments in reference to enforcement procedures and the need to clarify some of the language in regard to the dispute process. Lieutenant Schneider reviewed the proposed area for the "No Wake Zone" and noted that this area would be easily identifiable by those that patrol on the police boat.

Tabled until the Police Commission is presented with a revision regarding the settlement of disputes and clarification on issuing citations.

b. E-Mail Re: Intersection of Route 2 @ Route 1

No one in attendance for this item. Chairman Trebisacci appreciates the comments in the email and noted that Routes 1 and 2 are State roads and not in the control of the Police Commission. Chairman Trebisacci would like that this item not be placed on the agenda again until the concerned citizen confirms he will be in attendance.

c. E-Mail Re: Areas of Concern on Mistuxet Avenue

Stephen Bessette, Mystic Resident

Mr. Bessette voiced his concerns about water being dispelled from private properties onto the street, in particular on Mistuxet Ave. In the winter months, this water freezes and creates a hazard. He has been in contact with the Director of Public Works, Barbara McKrell in regard to this issue.

Mr. Bessette also suggested to the Police Commission that a double yellow line be painted on Harry Austin Drive to delineate that this is in fact a two-way street.

5. Traffic

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, December 13, 2018 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Tabor voiced his concerns that the draft December 13, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes under item 4. Old Business b. Zoning Regulation Amendment - Accessory Dwelling Units did not reflect the plans that were presented to the Police Commission by Planning and Zoning representative Jason Vincent. In fact, the presentation to the Board of Police Commissioners in regard to the accessory

dwelling units was based on the understanding that the accessory dwellings are for family members and that the primary residence is owner occupied. The Police Commission's comments to Planning and Zoning are based on this understanding.

Commissioner Tabor further stated that the Police Commission had concerns with the fact that, once elderly family members pass away, the accessory dwelling could be rented to a non-family member. Planning and Zoning noted that they do not have the staff available to closely monitor the accessory dwellings once they are in place. According to Commissioner Tabor, the plan for the accessory dwellings, as it has passed through Planning and Zoning, has the potential that both the residence and accessory dwelling be used as rentals. This may cause issues with parking and, if the property is used as an Airbnb, it may cause further issues.

Vice Chairman Gourd and the Police Commission would like the record to reflect that the plan for the accessory dwellings that was presented to the Police Commissioners at the December 13, 2018 was not the plan that passed through Planning and Zoning. Planning and Zoning loosened their guidelines and the Police Commission's vote would have been different if the plan was proposed on the premise that the primary residence did not have to be owner occupied.

Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion that the minutes for the Thursday, December 13, 2018 regular meeting be amended to reflect the discussion with Planning and Zoning on accessory dwellings and that the Police Commission's comments were based on the understanding that accessory dwellings are for family members and the primary residence is owner occupied. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, December 13, 2018 regular meeting as amended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion approved.

Chairman Trebisacci appreciates the Commissioner's comments and noted that there have been communication concerns. Chairman Trebisacci entered the following letter from himself, addressed to Jason Vincent of Planning and Zoning, to the record:

Seeing that these recent emails concern a Board of which I am presently Chair, I feel that I need to respond. Unfortunately, I was out of the office on business, so I couldn't respond sooner. I appreciate having had the benefit of being able to review the emails prior to my response, however.

I am sure that you understand that those of us who volunteer our time on the Police Commission take our responsibilities seriously. Certainly, we appreciate the expertise that you and your staff bring to your job. That is why it is important that we are able to address any questions we might have on planning and zoning issues to your office. Thus, when a Planning & Zoning matter is placed on our agenda we hope that you or a member of your staff with authority to answer our questions is available. It is not acceptable if the Police Commission postpones acting on any matter that is properly placed on our agenda because we need answers to certain questions only to learn that the Planning & Zoning authorities took their action without our input anyway.

As far as our agenda goes this month, it is significant that the Boathouse project appeared once again. As you know, the Police Commission has some serious objections to proposed parking along Route 27. This is based not only on our careful assessment of that plan but also

on concerns raised by members of the public. Also, I am sure that the Commissioners will have other questions relating to traffic and safety implications arising from the project. This project differs from some of the other projects that appear on our agenda in that it is a Town project that appears to be shepherded by you among others. I believe this project was the main reason the Chief asked for you to attend our meeting on Thursday.

Although it is my understanding that the Boathouse will now be taken off Thursday's agenda, I believe that it is important that we continue the discussion on that and that the project not be developed without Police Commission input. In the past, I have suggested a workshop session. Indeed, we have workshoped this once already at which time it was requested that alternatives be presented that did not include on street parking. The problem is, it doesn't appear that those who are putting forth the project have any intention of developing any alternatives

While it is not my intention to give this project any more negative publicity that it has received already, this seeming disregard of our requests has created a great deal of mistrust. I certainly want to avoid that, but request that any further discussions be held at times when meetings can be scheduled that accommodate the members of the Police Commission at 5 pm and after.

As for the other items on our agenda, I appreciate your status report and don't expect that we will have any questions of your office on them. Those projects are a bit different that the Boathouse in that they are not Town projects and they are shepherded by someone else who I expect will be at the meeting to address our concerns.

There was some further discussion amongst the Police Commissioners about the importance of communication and the necessity for all the Town of Stonington Commissions to work together. Also, discussion regarding how the Police Commission's motions and comments are submitted to other Commissions. There was some additional discussion in regard to timing constraints with items presented to this Commission that need reviewing before being submitted to other Commissions.

The Police Commission also has serious objections to parking on Greenmanville Road at the Boathouse site.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

According to Chief Stewart, the Department is 48.4% through the budget year and has used 49.1%. This is less than 1% over budget, however, Chief Stewart does not believe they will be over budget in the end.

b. Monthly Report

Chief Stewart noted that the monthly report is typical of this time of year. He did point out that the number of motor vehicle accidents involving deer were more than usual.

c. Yearly Report

In 2009, there were 1749 medical calls. In 2018 there were 2104 medical calls. This is a 20% increase. He also pointed out that the yearly report highlights some trends.

d. Alarm Report

e. Special Event Schedule

f. Radio Update

1. West Vine Street School Radio Enhancement Project/BDA Update

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that this is a work in progress. They acknowledge that a BDA is needed and has to be put in but are looking for some technical issues to be addressed first. Chief Stewart stated that they were told up front by the Police Commission before the project began that a BDA was needed in both schools.

2. Portable Radio R.F.P. Update

This item is with the Director of Finance.

3. Microwave Link Replacement

According to Captain Olson, this is the link between the Police Department's tower and the tower at Town Hall. It is used to beef up the current legacy system. When there is a failure, the fire department loses connection. Richard LaSaracina has estimated that he can provide and install a replacement for approximately \$14,000. The funding will come out of the upgrade budget.

Chief Stewart discussed with the Police Commission the ongoing collaboration with RI to be compatible with their radio system.

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the power company has begun the process of changing the lighting in Police Department to LED's.

g. Chapter 24, Domestic Violence Policy *VOTE NEEDED*

This is the latest version of the State of Connecticut's Domestic Violence Policy. There has been a change on dual arrests. Police are encouraged to arrest the dominant aggressor.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the Chapter 24, Domestic Violence Policy as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

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

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Letter Re: Blessing of the Fleet 5K Race
- b. Letter Re: 2019 Mystic Half Marathon
- c. Animal Control Officers Certification Renewals
- d. Letter Re: Click It or Ticket Enforcement Campaign Reimbursement
- e. Memo Re: Good Job – ACO Jacquier
- f. Note & Article Re: Radio Project
- g. Letter Re: 2019 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant Application
- h. Memo Re: POST Reporting of Pursuits by Police Officers
- i. Letter Re: Duck Race
- j. Letter Re: Donation to Dog Fund
- k. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Cullen
- l. Memo Re: Great Job – Special Olympics Tip A Cop
- m. Memo Re: Thank You – Sergeant Beebe & Officer Sieczkiewicz

n. Memo Re: Officer Joseph Saunders 10 Year Anniversary
o. 2018 Perfect Attendance Memos


Commissioner O'Shaughnessy commented that he attended the Tip A Cop event held at Stonington Pizza. He noted that they did a wonderful job and wanted to thank all those involved.

Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

9. Adjourn

At 7:41 p.m., Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tabor, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert O'Shaughnessy
Secretary