

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 12, 2017
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Holt called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

2. Remarks of Public

None

3. New Business

a. Letter Re: Mystic Irish Parade *VOTE NEEDED*

Matt Forde, 152 Daniel Brown Dr. Mystic, MIPF Parade Director
Leo Roche, President of the MIPF
Neil Ryan, Vice President of the MIPF

Mr. Forde stated that the 2017 Mystic Irish Parade will be held on March 19th starting at 1 p.m. He officially stated that Chief Darren Stewart will be this year's Grand Marshall. Mr. Forde is asking for the Commission's blessing. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked if there have been any changes. Mr. Forde stated there have been no changes from last year. If there are any modifications that need to be made, Mr. Forde always reaches out to the Police Department and Chief Stewart to make sure the event runs safely and without incident. The Commissioners asked whether any notable people will be a part of the parade this year. Mr. Forde does not have any one lined up at this time but if that changes he will contact Chief Stewart. Chief Stewart informed the Commission that Mr. Forde is always 100% cooperative and he is looking forward to this event.

Mr. Forde, Mr. Roche, Mr. Ryan, the Police Commissioners, Chief Stewart and Captain Olson were all photographed for the MIPF.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the 2017 Mystic Irish Parade event as presented upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Letter Re: Blessing of the Fleet 5K Race *VOTE NEEDED*

Deborah Crowley, Representative for the Blessing of the Fleet Race

Ms. Crowley informed the Commission that the application and certified course map have been submitted and there are no changes from last year. There were 184 runners last year and Ms. Crowley is looking to maintain that number. Commissioner Gourd asked if they will cut off at 184 runners. Ms. Crowley stated that they are not looking to grow and do not expect the number to increase. Chief Stewart pointed out that the majority of the

race is held in the Stonington Borough and only goes through a small section on the Town of Stonington property. He further stated the Stonington Police Department will be supporting the event and there have been no prior issues. Ms. Crowley noted that the Blessing of the Fleet Race Committee will be meeting with the Stonington Borough at a later date.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the July 2017 running of the Blessing of the Fleet 5K Race event as presented upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

4. Old Business

None

5. Traffic

a. Crosswalk Permit: West Broad Street *FYI*

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that it is necessary to pull a permit each year for the pedestrian crosswalk signs that are placed on State roads. This permit is to place the sign on West Broad Street in front of Mel's Creamery. There will be two other pedestrian crosswalk sign permits on next month's agenda. One on Liberty St. in front of St. Michael School and the other on West Broad St. in front of West Broad Street School.

No action.

b. E-Mail Re: Mason's Island Road Traffic Light

Chairman Holt noted that the Commission has talked about the concerns with the Mason's Island Rd. light for many years. Chief Stewart recently received an email from Mystic resident Jim Grills with concerns about the traffic at the Mason's Island Rd. and Route 1 intersection. Chief Stewart stated that the State is open to putting in a turn lane but the Town would have to pay for it. Chief Stewart was warned by Chief Erskine that this light would be an ongoing discussion. In 2004 Chief Erskine wrote to the DOT and was told the same thing, it would have to be funded by the Town. Chief Stewart notes that there are several issues with putting in a turn lane. First, the Town would need to take property in order to widen the road and second, there is a rare beech tree at that intersection which causes an environmental challenge. As the intersection is currently configured, there is a stacking of vehicles east of the intersection towards Brustolon's. This is the better alternative since if vehicles began stacking up to the west of the intersection it would affect the many business entrances in that area. Route 1 was not originally designed for the number of vehicles that use it today.

Currently there is a priority left turn light for those heading eastbound on Route 1. Chief Stewart stated that the State will not flip the priority light due to sightline issues.

In order to put in a turn lane, the existing light would need to be changed, property would need to be taken, the rare tree issue would need to be resolved and there will be traffic engineering costs. Chief Stewart estimates that the costs could be anywhere between \$300,000 to \$750,000. Chairman Holt asked what would the Commission need to do if they elected to move forward. Chief Stewart answered that the Commission would need to recommend that the intersection be altered. It would then go to CIP and then on to further discussions with DOT to install the turn lane. Commissioner Tabor stated that it is not uncommon for developers to pay for infrastructure improvements. Currently, in this area, there is the YMCA expansion project and the condo project. Would those developers help with the costs? Chief Stewart stated that the YMCA addition has already come to the Commission. Commissioner Tabor acknowledged that it is a little late in the game to go back to those

particular developers. Chief Stewart noted that if a project does not qualify as a major traffic generator, then the state does not get involved.

No action.

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, December 8, 2016 REGULAR Meeting *VOTED NEEDED*

Commissioner Gourd noted a change to the wording on page four, second paragraph.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 8, 2016 regular meeting as amended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Chief Stewart noted that we are almost halfway through the fiscal year and about .5% under budget. He did note that the Department will be in the red in the officer's uniforms line item. There are several new officers that need uniforms. There are also radio maintenance issues that need to be addressed. There are repeater issues and antenna issues. The piece of equipment needed costs \$5,004. Chief Stewart has alerted the Board of Finance.

The Department is also experiencing infrastructure issues. The portables and car radios need to be replaced. \$350,000 will cover the portables and the car radios. Another \$350,000 will cover the consoles in dispatch and the EOC equipment. There are still the ongoing discussions with the radio antennas.

b. Monthly Report

c. Yearly Report

There were 1956 persons ill or injured incidents, 806 suspicious persons/vehicles and 160 pistol permit applications. Chief Stewart also noted that there were 1420 assist other agencies. This is due to the fact that Stonington is the first Connecticut town on the border of RI and many RI agencies contact Stonington for help. There are some variations in numbers compared to other years due to a variety of reasons such as FTO training and which officers are on the road at particular times during the year. There were 54 more DUI arrests in 2016 compared to 2015 and the number of motor vehicle stops was up. Commissioner Tabor commented that the trend is showing identity thefts are on the rise. Chief Stewart noted that identity thefts are very time consuming to investigate and it is rare that arrests are made. There are an increasing number of scams.

d. Alarm Report

e. Special Event Schedule

f. POST Recruit Transcripts

These transcripts reflect the recruits' performance in the Academy.

g. 2016 Taser Report

The State of Connecticut requires the Department to report the use of tasers. In 2016 there were no incidents where a taser was used. Chief Stewart noted that the Stonington Police Department practices fair and practical reasoning before they resort to using force.

Chief Stewart noted that the new cars are in and one is still at Strobes N More. As an FYI, he stated that the State requires a DOT worker or the Police Department to run the traffic light box at the Spellman Dr. and Route 1 intersection at the high school. This is necessary to let the buses out at that intersection in the afternoons. Previously, the school had someone running the box but now a crossing guard will be assigned to that post. According to Chief Stewart, the school will do a line item transfer to pay for one hour to the crossing guard to man the traffic light box. Chief Stewart also made the Commissioners aware that there was a child abuse case where two arrests were made. The officers involved did a tremendous job.

h. NCIC Policy Revision *VOTE NEEDED*

Lieutenant Schneider has made the necessary updates to the NCIC Policy in order to bring the Department into compliance with the FBI.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the NCIC, Collect and CJIS Requirements as submitted to the Board of Police Commissioners. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

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

8. Consent Agenda

a. Memos Re: Job Well Done – Officer Wholean

b. Memo Re: Salary Adjustments for FY 2017/18

c. Memo Re: Good Job

d. Letter Re: Donation to Animal Control

e. Police Department History FYI Courtesy of Retired Chief Erskine

Chief Stewart thought the Commission would enjoy this piece of history regarding a parking ticket issued to Admiral Nimitz in 1946.

f. Letter Re: Thank you – Groton Elks

g. Memos Re: Perfect Attendance

Commissioner Tabor commended the Police Department on the number of officers with perfect attendance. Out of 38 sworn officers, 21 had perfect attendance which equals out to 55%. Chief Stewart noted that some officers have not called in sick for a number of years running. Sgt. McCaffrey has gone 16 years without using a sick day, Lt. Schneider has gone 12-13 years and Officer Saunders has had perfect attendance all 6 years that he has been on the force.

h. Letter Re: Thank You – L&M Hospital

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner Holt requested a five-minute recess so the representatives from the Perkins Farm Project could prepare their presentation.

9. Planning & Zoning Application for Perkins Farm Project *VOTE NEEDED*

Michael Cegan, Richter & Cegan Inc., Landscape Architects

David Sullivan, Milone & MacBroom, Traffic Engineer

David Lattizori, Lattizori Development, LLC

Jason Vincent, Town of Stonington, Director of Planning

Chairman Holt welcomes the representatives for the Perkins Farm Project to make their presentation to the Board of Police Commission. The Commissioners have been briefed and will have some questions regarding the presentation.

Mr. Cegan began the presentation of the Perkins Farm Project. This is the zone change and master plan approval process. They will be back at a future date with site plans. The Perkins Farm Project is on a 7-acre site on Jerry Brown Rd across from Stoneridge. The goal is to preserve the integrity of the old farm landscape and the old stone walls. There are some wetlands on the property which will dictate the placement of an entrance to the site.

The zoning amendment involves a series of subzones which was approved by the Commission in August. This site will consist of a commercial component including medical/professional and research facilities as well as a residential component consisting of a 4-story, 121-unit apartment building, 50 town houses and single family houses.

The main entrance will be aligned with Coogan Blvd. There will be a secondary entrance out to Jerry Brown Rd. This secondary entrance will be for residents only. This will enable them to avoid driving through the commercial area situated at the main entrance. It helps create a buffer between the commercial and residential components of the development.

David Sullivan presented the Commission with an overview of traffic study findings and recommendations for the site. Mr. Sullivan looked at existing accident and traffic data from surrounding intersections, Mistuxet Ave. and Jerry Brown Rd., Coogan Blvd. and Jerry Brown Rd., Coogan Blvd. and Clara Dr., Jerry Brown Rd. and Route 27, Coogan Blvd. and Route 27 as well as the Route 95 on and off ramps in the immediate area. According to Mr. Sullivan, from a pure traffic standpoint, this development will not impact safety. The main entrance will keep most traffic on Coogan Blvd which has good sightlines. The proposed traffic impact has been approved by the DOT. Mr. Sullivan also informed the Commission that they also took into account the seasonal traffic. This development will not degrade the existing level of service of any of the intersections studied.

At the Coogan Blvd entrance, the existing stop sign will remain and an all way stop will be installed. It is not necessary to put in a traffic signal. The all way stop will help with speeds and a pedestrian crosswalk will also be added. At the crosswalk, there will be a rectangular, rapid flashing beacon supplemented with advanced warning signs alerting drivers that a crosswalk is ahead. Radar signs would also be useful in that area.

Mr. Sullivan also looked at parking and the regulations and industry data. The developers are trying not to pave the entire property. He feels that the site is well designed, the access locations are good and after it is built, it will have a positive impact on traffic.

Commissioner Gourd noted that it is hard to measure traffic without knowing the exact use of the commercial building in the development. Mr. Sullivan stated that a vast percentage of the developments traffic will enter and exit on Coogan Blvd and head toward Route 95. He explained that the industry data gives a good idea of both the residential traffic and the commercial traffic that will be generated.

Commissioner Tabor asked how many school aged children would be living in the development. He questioned this because there will need to be access for a school bus. David Lattizori answered that there would be about 30 children. Chief Stewart stated that buses normally do not travel onto private roads so the bus stop would be on Jerry Brown Rd. Chairman Holt expressed that the Commissioners have concerns about sidewalks and the number of school aged children that will be queuing up at the second entrance waiting for the bus. Mr. Sullivan answered that there will be a sidewalk down the main entrance on one side of the street. Chairman Holt asked why the second entrance was not lined up with the intersection at Pequotsepos Rd. Mr. Sullivan replied that if the second entrance was at Pequotsepos Rd. it would encourage people to use that road instead. As it stands, the second entrance is far enough away to not impact the Pequotsepos intersection. Commissioner Holt suggested an alternative location for the second entrance but it is not feasible due to wetlands on the site. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked if the secondary entrance could be a one-way entrance only, no exit. Mr. Sullivan responded that from an operational standpoint that would work but it would be a huge inconvenience to the residence. Chief Stewart suggested that clearly marking the second entrance as "residents only" would be beneficial. Chief Stewart would like to keep traffic from Pequotsepos Rd. Mr. Lattizori stated that the developers want to see the second entrance as a private entrance to keep the commercial traffic out of the residential areas. Most of the traffic will go right to Route 95 or straight down Coogan Blvd. Commissioner Tabor noted that parents would like to be able to bypass the main entrance traffic and head towards Dean's Mill School. He is not opposed to a two-way second entrance. Mr. Sullivan commented that changing the two-way second entrance to a one-way entrance only will not reduce the impacts, it will only make it more inconvenient.

The optimal way to access the development from Route 95 North bound would be to take a double left and head down Coogan. Chairman Holt noted that this puts a lot of strain on the Coogan Blvd and Route 27 intersection. Chief Stewart stated that the State may want to take a look at that intersection.

Mr. Lattizori informed Chief Stewart that the project would pay for radar signs. Chief Stewart also suggested that the development install security cameras. Security cameras have helped the police solve many crimes around town and it would be beneficial for the developers to integrate them into the costs. Mr. Lattizori said that his previous projects use a neighborhood watch system but he would like camera systems at the entrances and exits. It may be possible to combine the residence only signs with video surveillance signs. Chief Stewart also informed the developers about the potential need for a BDA system to enable emergency responders radio systems to work correctly within the buildings. He suggested that at least the duct work be installed in case a BDA system is necessary. It will save money up front since it would be more expensive to put in after the fact. Mr. Lattizori agreed and stated one ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.


Chairman Holt and the Commission was given a brief overview of the road configuration during construction.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made the following motion; in regards to the Perkins Farms project, the Board of Police Commissioners sees no substantive issues with traffic, safety, or parking, but reserves the right to review the final plans and also review any requirements/comments of the State DOT. Furthermore, the Commission will, at a later date, review signage in this area as far as stop signs, crosswalks, and other traffic related issues. The Commission as a whole wishes the developer the best with this important project in Stonington. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

10. Adjourn

At 7:03 p.m., Commissioner Tabor made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henri N. Gourd
Secretary