

January 13, 2016

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 Mike Spellman and Selectwoman Kate Rotella. Also present were members of the public and press.

**(1) Call to Order**

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

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to amend the agenda to recognize David Terranova.

Mr. Spellman stated that he wanted to thank him for coming across the river. He stated that for thirty years Mr. Terranova has been on this side of the river. Mr. Spellman stated that Mr. Terranova has had a very successful business and has always given back to the community. The Board presented Mr. Terranova with a commendation congratulating him and his family in recognition of serving mouth-watering food for over thirty years.

**(3) Comments from the Public**

None

**(3) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the December 23, 2015 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.

**(4) Correspondence**

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Barbara Resnick, International Representative of UE Local 222 requesting documentation in advance of the Stonington Public Administrators Association (SPAA) negotiations.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Attorney Michael Bonnano regarding matters concerning the Sewer Treatment Expansion Parcel in Stonington Borough.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the New England Science & Sailing Foundation requesting the town's support to purchase a 20 horsepower Honda outboard engine for one of its powerboats for \$4,000.00

**(5) Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations**

**Economic Development Commission**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to reappoint Blunt White to the Economic Development Commission.
- The Selectmen accepted Amy Arruda's resignation from the Economic Development Commission.

**Mystic Harbor Management Commission**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint John Lee to the Mystic Harbor Management Commission.

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to appoint Mark Mitsko to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

### **Commission on Aging**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to appoint Susan Peglow to the Commission on Aging.
- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Betty Croteau to the Commission on Aging.
- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Maryann Bessette to the Commission on Aging.

### **Waterfront Commission**

The Selectmen accepted Randy Minor's resignation from the Waterfront Commission.

### **(6) New Business**

#### **Request that Street Number for Map 27, Block 1, Lot 26 be assigned 8 Aimee Drive, Pawcatuck, CT 06379**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to assign Map 27, Block 1, Lot 26 the street name 8 Aimee Drive.

#### **Request that Street Number for Map 15, Block 2, Lot 2A be assigned 138 Liberty Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to assign Map 15, Block 2, Lot 2A the street name 138 Liberty Street.

#### **Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Resolution**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

#### **Pawcatuck Lion's Club Request for Use of Donahue Park**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the Pawcatuck Lion's Club request for the use of Donahue Park for its annual 5K road race on Saturday, June 4, 2016.

#### **Discussion: Vacancy of Tree Warden**

Mr. Simmons stated that the Town of Stonington of Stonington is currently seeking a qualified person to volunteer as Tree Warden. He stated that interested parties are requested to submit resumes to the Stonington Board of Selectmen.

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to circulate the vacancy notice.

#### **Appointment of Members to the Sewer Treatment Expansion Parcel (STEP) Ad Hoc Committee**

Mr. Simmons stated to Attorney Jeff Londregan that two weeks ago a motion was to establish the ad hoc committee had 10 members. He stated that at this stage in the game we have 13. Mr. Simmons asked if a simple motion would amend the prior motion. Attorney Londregan stated yes. He also stated that he would recommend if the Board was going to consider alternates they should also just identify the number of alternates they would like to add to the ad hoc committee. Mr. Simmons stated that they would like to have 13 members and 4 alternates. Attorney Londregan stated that a simple motion to amend the make-up of the committee to 13 members with 4 alternates. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman and seconded by Mrs. Rotella to amend the prior motion establishing an ad hoc committee from 10 members to 13 members and 4 alternates. Discussion: Mr. Spellman stated that the applicants are a good group of people that turned out for the interviews. Mrs. Rotella stated

that she was very happy to see so many people that want to get involved. The vote was 3-0 in favor of amending the prior motion.

Mr. Simmons stated that the first motion is to populate the committee with the following people:

Two residential neighbors to the STEP property: Angela Gora and Dorotea Abele

A Borough Community Member: Don Maranell

A Town Community Member: Robin Hennessey

A Member of the WPCA: Lynn Young

A Member of the Planning & Zoning Commission: David Rathbun

A Member of the Waterfront Commission: Sandy Grimes

A Member of the Police Department: Chief Darren Stewart Police Chief

A Member of the Recreation Commission: Mike Crowley

A Borough Burgess: Howard Park

A Member of the Public who presently uses the STEP property with her dog: Gloria Gorby

An At-Large Member of the Public: Don Kluberanz

A Member of the Board of Selectmen: Rob Simmons

Four Alternates: Karen Roy, Paul Grassel and Robert Maurice and Paul Grassel. The fourth alternate remains vacant. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella a voted unanimously to populate the committee.

Mr. Simmons stated that the second motion is that the Board of Selectmen hereby establishes the following mission statement for the STEP Ad Hoc Committee: 1. You shall consider the suitability of the STEP property for an off-leash "dog park"; and if deemed suitable, you shall (a) identify what physical improvements, if any, should be made to the STEP property, (b) what rules and regulations should be implemented to meet applicable standards, as determined by the Committee, for such a park, and (c) set forth the proposed means of enforcing said rules and regulations. If the STEP property is not suitable in the opinion of the Committee, you shall consider if there is another location within the town for such a park.

You shall organize yourself with a Chairperson and any other officers deemed necessary, hold regular meetings and keep proper minutes, and comply with the Freedom of Information Act for conducting said meetings. You shall investigate and visit other off-leash dog parks within Connecticut, review their rules and regulations for operating said parks and enforcement procedures, and take any other investigative steps you deem appropriate; and you shall report your findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen no later than April 1, 2016. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve this "mission statement".

Mr. Simmons stated that the third motion is to list possible options available to the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Simmons read the following: Recommend one or more of the following alternatives for the use of the STEP property. 1. No change to the current layout and use. 2. Close and lock the gates so that no members of the public may access the property. 3. Lock the gates open so that the public may access it, but any dogs brought to the property would not be able to be let off leash without the risk of running. 4. Establish the property as an off-leash park and obtain all necessary administrative approvals to do so. 5. Close and lock the gates so that no members of the public may access it, but identify an alternate location for an

off-leash dog park within the Town. If more than one alternative is chosen, rank them in order of preference. For each alternative chosen, identify what rules (i.e. use, hours, etc.) should be implemented; what improvements, if any, should be made to the property; and what person(s) or department(s) should oversee compliance with the rules. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to accept these possible options.

Mr. Simmons stated that he, as First Selectman, would notify the individuals who have been selected as members and alternates, to suggest to them that they meet as soon as next Wednesday night. He stated that it would be an organizational meeting to elect officers and prepare an agenda for future meetings and hearings. He stated that it would be his intent as First Selectman to chair the first meeting and meetings thereafter as appropriate, to allocate funds if necessary to travel to other dog parks to see how it's done elsewhere in Connecticut and otherwise allocate funds to meet the needs of the ad hoc committee.

**(7) Comments from the Public**

- Attorney Michael Bonnano asked for clarification between #2 and #5 of the Possible Options. Mr. Simmons stated that #2 is simply closing and locking of the gate and that's it. Mr. Simmons stated that #5 would be a closing and locking of the gates but a decision to look for another location in town for an off-leash dog park.
- Mr. Kluberanz thanked the Board again for giving this issue such high visibility.

**(8) Comments from the Selectmen**

- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously that the Board recognize Dorian Murray an 8 year old of Westerly, Rhode Island be recognized for his bravery battling pediatric cancer. He stated that his 8 year old has shown significant courage through his treatment and although Westerly and Stonington are two different towns we are one community and we encourage our residents to use the #D-Strong in their social media because it seems to be aiding him in his recovery. Mr. Simmons asked if it is the intent of Selectman Spellman that the Board send official correspondence to the individual. Mr. Spellman stated yes. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to amend the agenda to convey to Dorian Murray the Board's respect and encourage for his recovery.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the town is deep in the budget process. He stated that the budget process is particularly important for the town of Stonington over the next couple of years because we anticipate that we will be bonding for the largest bonding project in the town's history for updating Stonington Public Schools.

**(9) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

  
Kristine Bell  
Recording Secretary