

April 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**

**(3) Comments from the Public**

- Ms. Dorotea Abele stated that the Stonington Dock Park proposal will not do them any service. She stated that the town should consider the concerns of the folks who have been here for many years.
- Mr. Bill Rutherford stated that current configuration does not bother him that much. He stated that putting additional fences will exacerbate the situation.

**(4) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the March 23, 2016 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.

**(5) Correspondence**

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Kris Bell outlining the budget schedule.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Don Kluberdanz expressing his interest in serving on the Waterfront Commission.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Kevin Bowdler expressing his interest in serving on the Economic Development Commission.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Robert Tabor expressing his interest in serving on the Police Commission.

**(6) Reappointments/Resignation**

**Stonington Harbor Management Commission**

- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Paul O'Neil to the SHMC.
- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Caleb Rose to the SHMC.

**K-12 School Building Committee**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Michael Fauerbach to the K-12 School Building Committee.

**(7) New Business**

**Report from Acting First Selectman Mike Spellman**

Mr. Spellman updated the Selectmen on the budget, Pawcatuck water issue, K-12 School Building Committee chair, the boat house, Walldogs, Edythe K. Richmond pond, Mason's Island Road and Light it Up Blue.

**New England Geosystems Demonstration**

Roger Kizer, IT Manager explained that through the collaboration of several Town Departments, Human Services' Autism Parent Support Group and the Town's GIS vendor, the Town of Stonington has developed an application to assist first responders in locating an

autistic individual if they are reported missing by using available maps and information from the person family.

**Summer Food Service Program Signature Change Authorization**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to revise the authorized signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program to Mr. Simmons, Vincent Pacileo and Kristine Bell.

**Discussion - Beautification Committee**

Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services and Jason Vincent, Director of Planning explained that this Committee would serve as an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen, working closely with Public Works, Planning Department, Human Services and Solid Waste to enhance the appearance of the community to create a more welcoming environment for residents and businesses alike. Mr. Simmons stated that he endorses and concept. A motion was made Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation.

**Discussion - State DOT Route 1 Traffic Study**

Mr. Spellman stated that the traffic light at Mason's Island Road and Rt. 1 is a quality of life and a public safety issue. A motion as made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to have Mr. Simmons communicate to the Police Commission that they should speak with the State DOT regarding this issue.

**Discussion - STEP Ad Hoc Committee Report**

Mr. Simmons stated that the analysis was voted unanimously by the STEP Ad Hoc Committee to send it to the Board of Selectman.

- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to accept the STEP Ad Hoc Committee Report.
- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously that the First Selectman will work with Town employees, appropriate Boards, Agencies, Commissions and Authorities to implement the recommendations of the STEP Committee.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the Chairman of the Recreation Commission asked the Board not to take action on the Resolution that the Recreation Commission assumes responsibility for off-leash dog parks in the Town of Stonington.
- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to ask the Board of Finance to open a budget line item that accepts private donations for Stonington off-leash dog parks.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he spoke with Borough Warden Jeff Callahan and that the town dock belongs to the town but it is located in the Borough which requires dogs to be a leash. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously that the town property known as the Town Dock be considered an "on-leash" area in conformance with the Borough rules and regulations except that dogs will be allowed "off-leash" in areas specifically designated by the Town of Stonington on Town Dock property.

**Discussion-Field Usage Request Form**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella and seconded by Mr. Spellman to accept the recommendations for purposes of discussion. Discussion: Mr. Spellman stated that he had serious reservations about field fees. He said he has concerns that people in town will not speak up and say that they can't afford the fees and their child can't play. Mr. Rich Ward, Recreation Administrator stated that giving the parents a choice whether to pay the fee or host at least one off-season clinic and one summer camp gives a compromise and helps the parents. Mr. Ward stated parents already choose to put their kids in these camps. Mr. Mike Crowley stated that the town is putting away \$30,000.00 for the turf. Mr. Crowley asked how are the taxpayers going to get their revenue back. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to table the matter until the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting.

**Bid Award – Geotechnical Engineering Services**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to award the bid for the Stonington K-12 Modernization Project to Geotechnical Engineering Services.

**Bid Award – Suchocki & Son, Inc.**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to award the bid for the Stonington Athletic Fields-ADA Improvements to Suchocki & Son, Inc.

**Discussion – Velvet Mill Vendor fee waivers**

Mr. Simmons suggested that the Board extend the waiver for the Fusion event from last year and then examine the Sanitarian fees in the Town of Stonington. A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to waive the temporary vendor application fee for the Fusion event at the Velvet Mill.

**Request for the Use of the 4<sup>th</sup> District Voting Hall for Troop 76 Storage of Utility and Canoe Trailers**

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

**Request for the Use of the Town Dock Grass Area for the SVIA Farmer's Market**

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

**Request that Street Number for Map 147, Block 1, Lot 5B be assigned 31 Prentice Williams Road, Stonington, CT 06378**

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

**Acceptance of Carriage Drive Quit Claim Deed**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella and seconded by Mr. Spellman to accept Carriage Drive as a town road. Discussion: Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works stated that she supports accepting this road. She stated that the town has been maintaining this road for 30 years. The vote was 3-0 in favor of accepting it.

**All Purpose Field Release Agreement Request for Approval**

Mr. Simmons stated that his understanding is that all activities to fix the field have taken place. Mrs. McKrell stated that they had. A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the release.

**(8) Comments from the Public**

- Attorney Michael Bonnano asked for clarification on what was meant by leash area. He stated that there are pictures of an individual who left their dog and the dog jumped over the fence. Attorney Bonnano stated that self-policing issue doesn't work. He stated that it doesn't matter how many rules you have in place. He stated there was a dog fight there that day and they had to call the police.
- Ms. Dori Abele of 3 Front Street stated that she has lived there for 17 years. She stated that it used to be open space and she would like to see it that way again. Ms. Abele stated that she has been demeaned and called crazy. She stated that it is like living in a kennel.

**(9) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Mrs. Rotella stated that at the March 29<sup>th</sup> Mystic Armory meeting she heard many reasons not to turn it into housing.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the neighbors are not excited.
- Mr. Spellman stated that he is happy with the work from Roger and Leanne.
- Mr. Simmons stated that Mr. Spellman worked productively. He stated he was out of town for a week and he left it in good hands.

**(10)Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

  
Kristine Bell

Recording Secretary