

STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 9, 2019
5:00 p.m. at the Stonington Police Headquarters

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Remarks of Public

First Selectman Rob Simmons spoke regarding Wheeler Road guardrail replacement. Guidelines on maintenance and repair include guardrails. He noted that signatures were obtained to secure the designation of "scenic road;" people that live on the road are requesting wooden guiderails.

3. New Business

a. Angel Ride * VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart: They have done this ride for a number of years (took last year off), also Young Angel Road sponsored by Hole in the Wall Gang. No issues in the past. Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve subject to the usual requirements. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion approved.

b. Planning and Zoning Special Use Permit Application -- 30 Broadway LLC (M-Bar)

COMMENTS/VOTE NEEDED

Attorney Bill Sweeney of TCORS, New London, told Commission there will be a Public Hearing on 5/21/19. Proposal includes no physical alterations. Currently acoustic music is allowed and happens. In order to use an amplification, need a special use permit. It will only be within building and up to 10 p.m. No dance floor. Not a late-night bar, but an upscale wine bar. Site is kept clear and clean. No pattern of disturbance at site. Reasonable security measures are already in place. Looking for solo or small group performers. Have conducted detailed sound and acoustic study as required. When measured a sample event, decibel levels were 58, below district guidelines. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy: Study took place in February – what if the garage doors were open? It's not strictly a business area, some residential. What is the nearest neighbor? Atty. Sweeney: Measurement showed 10 db below standards. Apple Rehab is the nearest neighbor. Commissioner Tabor had a question regarding sketch of plan and db levels when windows are open. Atty: 10 db increase is exponential. Have to meet 65 db rule at the property line, and will be in compliance. Commissioner Elmer: doors open later in the evening? Chief: amplification can "melt your face." Atty: not this style. Commissioner Tabor: note that special permits go with the land, so future owner might use it for louder music. Chief: Still limit of 65 db at property line.

Chair: entertain a Motion to pass our comments to Planning and Zoning that amplified music should be contained within the building. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy so moved. Second by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion passed.

c. Taste of Mystic – Olde Mistick Village *VOTE NEEDED*

Joyce Olson Resnikoff spoke, representing her son Christopher Regan and C Haddock. They will have a tent, no bigger than last year. Restaurants and live entertainment. Alcohol stops at 9:45 p.m. Commissioner Gourd: Is set up similar to previous years? Resnikoff: Yes, no changes. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve, subject to insurance and other requirements. Second by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion approved.

4. Old Business

a. Planning & Zoning Application – Noank Shipyard *COMMENTS/VOTE NEEDED*

and agenda item 6a Letter Re: Seaport Marine/Smiler's Wharf:

Attorney Bill Sweeney, Land Use Attorney for Noank Shipyard, introduced principal people, owners, and architect. Plan being presented to Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is to redevelop the site. Master plan for site development over five years. Plans to date are conceptual, not detailed, and look into the future. Current use is boat storage, maintenance, boat yard. New uses: hotel, restaurant, open space and recreation opportunities including a boardwalk from Mystic River Park to Red 36. Have done a traffic analysis. Endorse idea of Cottrell Street one way. Believes changes will benefit entire village. PZC will consider this application on May 28.

Architect Meg Lyons of Stonington: 11.5 acres, 4 are wetlands. Borders Mystic River. Today warehouses cover 67,000 sq. ft. Series of docks and finger piers. Currently derelict industrial buildings. Propose demolish warehouse buildings and build. Intention is to make Cottrell Street a pedestrian boardwalk. Public will be able experience the water's edge. Willow Street will be widened. Ground floor of new buildings will be parking; other use will be 13 feet up. 318 parking spaces onsite, total 372 including offsite. 428 including a shuttle service for big events. Pedestrians arriving onsite will see a kayak pavilion, a 45-room hotel, and an open plaza over parking and overlooking river. Office on upper level, plus laundry and restrooms for boaters. New restaurant will have both interior and deck space. Crescent Park by Allen School Mill. Residential portions include apartment building, townhouses looking out to wetlands, multifamily houses toward Willow St. Will minimize light pollution, promote safe wayfinding with signage. Effort to transform downtown Mystic and make what is private property into a public asset.

Traffic Study was a 4-year study including speed data. Projection based on 0.6% growth rate in traffic in 4 years. Impact of additional traffic: if Cottrell St becomes one way southbound, level service C or better. One approach goes from B to C. In p.m., some D or better. Looked at sight lines – fine for all the approaches. Reviewed crash history – no existing conditions that would be exacerbated. In conclusion, there are no existing unsafe conditions, and development will not produce unsafe conditions. Existing 4-way stop at Washington and Willow.

Commissioner Gourd: Percent occupancy of hotels? Atty: Almost full occupancy.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy: Location of off-site parking? Atty: Medical Office Building on Willow (18 spaces for employees as needed in summer months). Mystic Oil site on Jackson Avenue (36 spaces).

Commissioner Gourd: Future number of employees? Atty: Total at Red 36: 9 employees. New restaurant: 18. Hotel 8.

Atty. Sweeney: Businesses can share use for parking, not all parking needed at the same time. Can shuttle from Mystic Packer Building. Thus, meet the requirements. 120 slips in project. Provides one parking space for two slips (per zoning regulations). Will add sidewalks in new area.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy: Safety for employees walking from off-site locations?

Commissioner Tabor: Exciting project. However, concerned about pedestrian traffic safety for existing residents on nearby residential streets without sidewalks. Hopes PZC will take comments related to these residents into consideration.

Atty. Sweeney: It's in the developer's interest to provide enough parking for their customers. Believes they will not create adverse conditions.

Chief: New sidewalks? Architect Lyons: Yes, on site.

Commissioner Tabor: If town is encouraging this kind of development, town should take some public safety measures.

Chief: Required parking is a PZC issue – is this meeting the standard?

Atty. Sweeney: Yes. Even with a Master Plan, a Site Plan will be required showing all drainage etc. details. There are multiple checks and balances within the process. First phase townhouses. Second phase is everything on the water, beginning with bulkhead to protect buildings from tidal surge.

12-month cycle for DEEP permitting for bulkheading before can start that part.

Commissioner Gourd: How do you ensure employees aren't parking on the street if that's closer?

Harry Boardsen, General Manager Noank Shipyard, Project Manager for this project: Internal enforcement with employees. Gated parking already for boat owners to limit them to one spot. Agreements for offsite parking are just for the companies' off hours.

Atty. Sweeney: Although safety is a valid concern, congestion is a sign of economic success. It is better than boarded up buildings.

Chief: Where do you stand with DOT? Will need a major traffic generator permit with time.

Atty. Sweeney: Yes, we plan to get that.

Chair Trebisacci: open to others for comment

Joan Durant, 22 Jackson Ave. In regard to Smiler's Wharf parking proposal, the cars will be on already crowded streets. Cars already loop around looking for parking. How can we be assured that those off-site parking contracts will be renewed?

Commissioner Gourd: Term? Looking down the road, safeguards for the neighborhood?

Atty. Sweeney: Will be providing documentation of agreements. Approval of each stage of development depends on meeting parking requirements on site plan. Tied to Zoning Approval, can't violate the terms of permit.

Mr. Boardsen: there are three different tiers of density – this is less than the lowest tier. We are not putting a big building in the south end to minimize impact on Jackson St. neighbors.

Atty. Sweeney: Every community around allows shared use parking. Parking is a shared interest. Chuck Sneddon, was on PZC when commercial parking requirements were established. Believes assumption that there will be overflow has already been considered and taken into account with parking space requirements. New development is not the problem; it is old development with inadequate parking.

Dave Smith, 2 Jackson Ave: Lived in Mystic his whole life and has a boat there. Concerned about parking and movement through the streets. With R36 development, couldn't get to his boat due to parked cars. Boaters access was reduced. Wonders if the scale isn't too large, even from the standpoint of walking.

Bill Scheer 4 Haley St, Mystic. Sometimes can't park at his own house.

Chief: A lot of time and effort has gone into this. Mystic is a destination, and will include traffic with or without this. Developer has done a lot with sidewalks. Meets PZC parking requirements from a traffic safety and parking point of view.

Chair: There will be further comments. TY for comments by developers and the neighbors, and from Mr. Sneddon regarding historical background on parking regulations.

Chairman: entertain a motion to pass comments on to Planning and Zoning, after hearing the concerns of neighbors, that developers address parking and safety concerns. Commissioner Gourd so moved after adding to motion to ask town to consider installation of sidewalks to and from offsite parking to benefit safety, given economic benefits to town. Commissioner Tabor seconded motion. All in favor, motion approved.

b. EMS Letters: VOTE NEEDED to Adopt EMS Policy

Chief: Propose change to policy with change to Hartford Health (went from 900 calls per year to 2300 per year). Often police officer does nothing but take a report. Limit means they will not go on cold calls unless CPR or medical injury. Has written to ambulance and fire station (see response letters). If "second tone" without someone responding, Police will go. They are not prevented from going, but this allows them to triage the call. If in doubt, dispatchers will still send police officer. It's a fundamental change from "no call too small," but this relieves police responsibility on specific types of calls, where there was duplication of services.

Commissioner Gourd: one letter suggested may want police officer at times.

Chief: We'll still hear situations on radio. In context of area growth and expansion, this seems a reasonable next step.

Chair: entertain a Motion to approve the policy change as requested. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy so moved. Second by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Signed MOU – North Stonington Animal Control

d. Boathouse Park * NO NEW INFORMATION *

Chair Trebisacci: Lack of new information is of concern because the Commission had requested a plan showing alternative parking proposals. Commissioner Shaughnessy and Chairman Trebisacci were told plan exists and would be provided.

Chief will send a letter expressing continued interest in parking. He noted that the Boathouse Park committee just met Monday night.

5. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Request for Signage for Manor Street *VOTE NEEDED*

Mr. and Mrs. Luzzi made the request at a prior meeting. Commissioners Tabor and O'Shaughnessy visited the site yesterday and agree with need for signage. Entertain a motion to approve: Commissioner Elmer so moved, second by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion approved.

b. E-Mail Re: Request for Dead End or No Outlet Sign – Quarry Path, Stonington ***VOTE NEEDED***

Patricia Graney, 26 Quarry Path – The street is narrow and one way in parts. People turn around in residents' driveways, causing damage. Sign on the spit would help six houses; all neighbors agree. Commissioner Tabor noted that there is an existing No Outlet sign on Noyes.

Chair: entertain a Motion to approve the request. Commissioner Elmer so moved. Second by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Email re: Correction & Clarification Re: Mystic Traffic/Parking

d. Continued Discussion on making Cottrell Street one way. Mr. Scheer: Cottrell Street is safer exit than Willow. Chair: Still a work in progress. Chief: considering cost, signage, timing, state approval. Mr. Boardsen supports one way on Cottrell St, is happy to share their traffic study, said most of people parking on Cottrell Street work downtown. Chief wondered how many spaces would be affected.

e. Wheeler Road Guardrail Replacement

Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works: A significant portion of the guardrail is damaged. Researched what can be put back. Wheeler is a historic road. Prudent to put a plan together. Asked Town engineer to walk the road. Passed out info. Do not have a plan to install them tomorrow. Plan to work with police, PZC regarding the best type of railing.

Chair: plan to make prettier and have guardrails that work.

Mr. Deledda of Public Works: Some sections have cable and posts, and some just have indicator posts, warning public there is a slope at edge of road. Many posts have failed. Want to replace them with TL3 standard guardrail. RB350 galvanized metal system is cost effective (\$30/35/ft), used 95 percent of the time. Other options from aesthetic point of view: Box beam (\$60/ft, galvanized with weathered steel finish) or "Merritt Parkway" (TL3 three times the cost of RB350). He noted that DOT may not approve box beams any more, as had some corrosion issues at overlap joints. Won't last as long. Commissioner Tabor: Wooden ones look a lot better. Contamination concerns from pressure treated lumber? Response: State uses it.

Chief: If guardrail system is broken, should replace as needed in spots. If expanding it, then come to the Commission. Commission understands highway department needs to stay within budget.

Mr. Deledda: We propose minimal increases.

Chief: We may need to notify homeowners. Propose a ride together for inspection and determination. Acknowledged and thanked Department of Public Works.

f. E-Mail Re: Traffic Sign Samples – follow up with people regarding data gathering on Masons Island.

g. E-Mail Re: Horizontal Alignment Treatments on State Roads in District 2 – State improvement to state roads. Putting signs up on corners, e.g. on Pequot Trail, 184, 201, 1A.

h. Letter Re: HeartSafe Sign Placement – 2 of 4 are on state roads, Jerry Brown and Pequotsepos. No one at meeting. Tabled.

6. Correspondence

a. Letter Re: Seaport Marine/Smiler's Wharf, NDD Zone Change & Master Plan Proposal. Considered as part of 4 a. above.

7. **Approval of Minutes** from Thursday, April 11, 2019, Regular Meeting ***VOTE NEEDED***
Commissioner O'Shaughnessy suggested an amendment to 5a in the minutes: Chief amended: Should the state want to eliminate another crosswalk in order to add a crosswalk at Williams Street, it needs to come back to Commission. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, April 11, 2019, Regular Meeting as amended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

- a. Budget Report – as expected
- b. Monthly Report
- c. Alarm Report
- d. Special Event Schedule
- e. State Plan of Operation
- f. E-Mail Re: Reserve Officer Jim Gilman Resignation ***VOTE NEEDED***
Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve and to send letter thanking him for his service, seconded by Commissioner Gourd. All in favor, motion approved.
- g. Revision to Chapter 47 – Chaplain Policy ***VOTE NEEDED***
Policy change, eliminating position of Chaplain Coordinator, has been presented in a handout. Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Gourd. All in favor, motion approved.
- h. Law Enforcement Risk Mitigation Service Agreement
National Accreditation CIRMA will come to review all policies to provide recommendations. Advantage of national accreditation would be a break on insurance.
- i. Defense Logistics Agency Law Enforcement Support Office Application
- j. FBINA Letter inviting applications to the national academy. Must be sergeant, lieutenant or above.
- k. Recognition from Safe Futures, Inc. – Received a thank you for helping out with lethality assessment
- l. Mutual Aid Agreement – Stonington Police & Westerly Police
- m. Letter Re: Police Coverage at Dean's Mill School through 04/25/19. Billing question stalemate.

West Vine St and Nature Center improvements

CSOs have been interviewed

Radio functionality improved. All consuming. GoLive next weekend.

Marathon next weekend at 7 a.m.

Highway use permit: Safety plan must be developed by local traffic authority. Redoing form so police can develop safety plan with state police

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to accept the Report of the Chief of Police. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Highway Use Permit: Brain Injury Alliance tour of Lights Bike for Thought
- b. Letter Re: Turkey Trot
- c. Letter Re: Triathlon
- d. Letter Re: St. Michael School Road Race
- e. Letter Re: Westerly/Pawcatuck Memorial Day Parade
- f. Application for Temporary Liquor Permit: Mystic Eats
- g. Propertyroom.com Check
- h. Memo Re: Officer Herbert Barrell 30 Year Anniversary
- i. Salary Survey
- j. Thank you Note: Mystic Aquarium
- k. Highway Use Permit: Mystic Half Marathon
- l. Highway use Permit: Mystic Memorial Day Parade

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Elmer seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Tabor seconded. All in favor, motion passed. 7:50 p.m.

9. Executive Session

At 9:30 p.m. Commissioner Gourd made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. All in favor, motion approved.

At 9:31 p.m. Commissioner Gourd made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to David Giesing, pending successful completion of a physical examination, psychological examination, and further background investigation. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion approved.

At 9:33 p.m., Commissioner Gourd made a motion to have Ashley Wheeler next in the Animal Control Officer hiring process. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor, motion approved.

10. Adjourn

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert O'Shaughnessy
Secretary