

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 13, 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

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

2. Remarks of Public

Edward Smith, Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Jesse Diggs, Stonington Harbor Management Commission

Mr. Smith and Mr. Diggs informed the Police Commission that they would like to readdress their issues with the enforcement of the "Slow, No Wake" zone near Sandy Point at this meeting. Chief Stewart spoke to this issue by stating that the Board of Finance has approved adding additional money to the Boating line item which will allow him to add four to five more shifts. Chief Stewart will consider adding more to money to this line item every year.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Diggs expressed their concerns with the safety issues at Sandy Point and feel that police presence is necessary. Lieutenant Schneider informed them that this increase in the budget will enable the Department to get the police boat in the area of Sandy Point more often. Just the presence of the police boat often deters boaters from committing offenses. Lieutenant Schneider noted that the Harbormaster's boat is also a visual deterrence. The police boat has priorities while it is in service but he will make every effort to help in the trouble areas. Mr. Diggs informed the Police Commission and Chief Stewart that the Harbor Management Commission is willing to contribute funds to enable the police boat to be out enforcing the "Slow, No Wake" zones. Chief Stewart commented that there would be appropriate channels that would have to be gone through with the Board of Finance before that could happen. He further recommends that they stay in contact with Lieutenant Schneider throughout the summer.

3. New Business

a. Fun Runs *POSSIBLE NEEDED*

Jeff Anderson, Kelley's Pace, Old Mistick Village

Mr. Anderson brought before the Police Commission his plans for Fun Runs to be held on Tuesday nights for nine weeks throughout the summer. He proposed starting the Runs at the Olde Mistick Village, crossing Queen's Chapel Rd., continuing on the Mystic Aquarium property then crossing Coogan Blvd. and continuing down Maritime Dr. then back again. Mr. Anderson has extensively researched areas that

would be the safest areas to conduct Fun Runs like the one proposed and this was the best option. The Runs will start at 6:15pm and conclude around 6:45pm. He anticipates about 100-150 runners would participate in these free Fun Runs.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy expressed his concerns with the runners crossing Coogan Blvd. He feels that this is a busy road and a lot of people, including children, will be crossing at different times for the duration of the Fun Run. Vice Chairman Gourd noted that this seems like it could be a new event and the Police Commission has put a moratorium on new events. Mr. Anderson stated that this Fun Run was previously held in the Stonington Borough and he is looking to change the venue because the size of the Fun Runs eventually required police presence. Captain Olson noted that they are looking to not overburden neighborhoods with these Fun Runs, however, Coogan Blvd. is a four-lane road that needs to be crossed. Commissioner Tabor suggested that they run on Maritime Dr. and go into Avalonia, but Mr. Anderson stated that would not be an ideal route for people with strollers or with children.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy announced that he would not be in favor of these Fun Runs unless an officer is present at the crosswalk on Coogan Blvd. Mr. Anderson was asked if he could fund hiring officers for this purpose and he stated that he would work on obtaining the resources to do so.

Mr. Smith, who was in attendance for another issue, noted that he is familiar with the Fun Runs when they were held in the Stonington Borough and had concerns on how the runners will cross Coogan Blvd. since, in his experience, the runners spread out and take up much of the roadway. Mr. Anderson stated that runners will be funneled to and across the crosswalk on Coogan Blvd.

There was some discussion on the need to have a permit from the State of Connecticut in order to man the Queen's Chapel Rd. crossing.

Mr. Diggs, who was in attendance for another issue, questioned the process of hiring officers to assist with events that require police presence. He feels that the Stonington Harbor Management Commission can do the same and hire the police boat throughout the summer to help in the trouble areas. Chief Stewart disagreed, he stated that it is not the same and the transfer of funds between different Town entities has to be done through the proper channels. Captain Olson also noted that there are a restricted number of officers that are qualified to run the police boat and there is only one boat. Any officer in the Department can be sent to cover an event.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Tuesday Fun Runs with the following restrictions; that the State of CT approves the safety plan for the crossing of Queen's Chapel Rd. In addition, that the sponsor has to hire a police officer for each night of the Fun Runs. Also, subject to the requirements the administration may deem necessary and upon proof of proper insurance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Feast of the Assumption Procession *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chief Stewart, there are no issues or changes and he recommends the Police Commission approves this event.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the Feast of the Assumption Procession, to be held on August 16, 2019, as presented, subject to the requirements the administration may deem necessary and upon proof of proper insurance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Stonington Cross-Country 5K *VOTE NEEDED*

Leanne Theodore, Town of Stonington Director of Human Services

Ms. Theodore gave a brief history in regard to runs that have been held in the past, organized by Tom McCoy, which are now held in Misquamicut. For the last two years, the Recreation Division has hosted the end of the season 5K. This will be the third year for this event and will be held the third Wednesday in August. Ms. Theodore, on behalf of the Recreation Division, is seeking approval from the Police Commission to continue to hold this event due to the fact that the route crosses and goes along Spellman Dr. There were 100 participants last year and most of the run takes place on the cross-country trails and on the track.

Chief Stewart suggests that Town Highway is contacted in order to put up barriers and also, he recommends putting up signage stating that a run is in progress during the event.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve the Stonington Cross-Country Run, to be held on August 21, 2019, as presented, subject to the requirements the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

d. Mystic Eats *VOTE NEEDED*

Meredith Fuller, President, Downtown Mystic Merchants

According to Ms. Fuller, this is the 6th Annual Mystic Eats and there are no significant changes from last year. Chief Stewart noted that there are no issues with this event. It was reiterated that the beer ticket sales end at 9:30pm, the beer service ends at 9:45pm and the music stops at 10pm. Captain Olson informed Ms. Fuller that if the back of the beer tent is opened, it needs to be staffed.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Mystic Eats event, to be held on September 6, 7 & 8, 2019, as presented, subject to the requirements the administration may deem necessary and upon proof of proper insurance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**e. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: VII-HII-Whitehall Ave., LLC (F. Grace)
*COMMENTS NEEDED***

Francis Grace, owner, Frank's Gourmet Grille

Mr. Grace informed the Police Commission about his plans to expand his dining room (by approximately 24 additional seats) into the space formally occupied by Seaport Medical Center. He has written agreement for shared parking with the Quality Inn and the Residence Inn. The other tenant, Dr. Headley, requires approximately 6 parking spaces during opposite hours from the restaurant. Commissioner Elmer questioned the shared parking and warned that neighbor relationships sometimes become strained. Vice Chairman Gourd noted that since the medical center is no longer on site, the spaces used for that will now be used to accommodate the increased number of seats in the restaurant.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning; that the Police Commission does not see any problems with parking, safety or traffic. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

f. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit & Coastal Area Management Application: Alamo, LLC (R. Schuch) *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Alan Contillo, owner, Mystic Coastal Flooring

Mr. Contillo informed the Police Commission of his plans to add four residential condos above his business, Mystic Coastal Flooring. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked how Mr. Contillo plans on blocking off his lot while still providing access to his tenants. Mr. Contillo is looking to have controlled access by means of a gated entrance. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy also noted that Mr. Contillo's tenants will have to be made aware of the noise and traffic in that area. Chief Stewart also cautioned that the tenants may invite friends and family to use Mr. Contillo's lot.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning; that the Police Commission does not see any problems with parking, safety or traffic. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Contillo inquired about installing a "No Parking" sign on the island in front of his business. People park in front of the island making it difficult for his customers to pull out of his lot. Chief Stewart recommends that Mr. Contillo take photos and come back before the Police Commission for discussion and a possible vote on installing the requested signage.

g. Sergio Franchi Concert *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chief Stewart, this is to be the 25th and final year for this event. It will be held on August 24, 2019 and he sees no issues.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the Sergio Franchi Concert, subject to the requirements the administration may deem necessary and upon proof of proper insurance. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy recused himself. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

At this time, 6:13 pm, Vice Chairman Gourd requested a five-minute recess.

Chairman Trebisacci arrives at 6:15 pm.

Meeting resumed at 6:17 pm.

4. Old Business

a. Planning & Zoning Application Update: J & H Hospitality *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Pete Parent, CME Associates, Inc., Senior Civil Engineer

Mr. Parent informed the Police Commission that this is an update as there have been some changes made in the plans for the proposed hotels. The main access to the hotels will be off of Clara Dr. There will also be a raised island at the intersection of Village Farm Rd. and Coogan Blvd. to force a right turn in and right turn out only.

Commissioner Tabor questioned as to when the traffic study was done and if it used current information to which Mr. Parent replied that he will provide a signed and dated copy to the Commissioners. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy pointed out a few discrepancies that he found within the study that he would like to have clarified. He also would like to know if traffic generated by Peking Tokyo was taken into consideration during this study since it is not mentioned. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy also expressed his concerns with the study in regard to the traffic generated from the take-out restaurant and

whether the sightlines will be addressed during this project. Commissioner Tabor noted that this would be a great opportunity to improve on the sightlines at the bottom of Village Farm Rd. since he is concerned with the sightlines in this area. The raised island will deter left-hand turns but will not eliminate them. There was further discussion about the flow at this intersection.

Chief Stewart noted that it seems traffic will be sent, via signage in the lot, out to Clara Dr. He further noted that the intersection at Clara Dr. and Coogan Blvd. currently has E and F ratings. There was extensive conversation about the impact on this intersection and how updated data may work to Mr. Parent's benefit. Chief Stewart also questioned whether the traffic study took into account the traffic generated by Masonicare. State DOT may require the developers to make the appropriate improvements to the intersection.

Vice Chairman Gourd summarized that the Police Commission would like clarification as to when the traffic study was produced and whether or not it took into account Masonicare and the big picture in this area. He also stated that the Police Commission wants comfort that the intersection at Clara Dr. and Coogan Blvd. will have satisfactory flow. Chief Stewart suggests Mr. Parent returns with the traffic engineer and with updated data before this Commission submits comments to Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to forward to Planning and Zoning that comments from the Police Commission are on hold until this Commission has further data from the traffic engineer on the intersection. Motion seconded by Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. HeartSafe Signs – Tabled from May 9, 2019 Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Nishant Sahoo, Vice President Stonington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.
Jill Bauer, Stonington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.

Ms. Bauer gave a brief introduction to the Police Commission on the State Department of Public Health's guidelines on what it takes to be Heart Safe. The signs are a visual reminder for people to renew their CPR training. The four locations chosen are entry points into town. The goal is to improve awareness of CPR training. Commissioner Elmer is unsure about how the signs prompt people to remember to get their certifications. Commissioner Tabor suggested that signs be placed in areas where people can question the meaning of the signs, for example at Town Hall or one of the medical centers in town. According to Ms. Bauer, there are Heart Safe signs for the workplace as well. She stated that the signs are provided to them by the Department of Public Health.

There was additional discussion as to where the signs should be placed around town since some of the originally suggested areas are either on State roads or in areas that already have an abundance of signs. Chief Stewart also informed them that when the signs are ready to go up, the Police Department can put a notice on the Facebook page to make the public aware of the signs and their meaning.

Tabled as requested by the Police Commissioners. They were instructed to choose alternative locations to be brought before the Police Commission for approval.

5. Traffic

a. E-Mail Re: North Anguilla Speed Limit Signs

According to Chief Stewart, Paul Thomas noticed the discrepancy and they changed out the signage.

6. Correspondence

a. Letter Re: "No Outlet" Sign Request, Lord's Point

The Police Commissioner's still need to go out to the site and review.

7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, May 9, 2019 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, May 9, 2019 regular meeting as written. Motion seconded by Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Chief Stewart noted that they are currently 1.3% under budget. The buffer at the end of the fiscal year will not be as big as it has been in the past. Chief Stewart went over on a few line items and explained why some of them are in the negative.

b. Monthly Report

There were 70 total criminal arrests and 190 medical calls for the month of May.

c. Alarm Report

Chief Stewart mentioned that they are beginning to see a downward trend in alarm registrations.

d. Special Event Schedule

e. Discussion on Ride Alongs

Chief Stewart sees no problems with Police Commissioners going on ride alongs under most circumstances and he suggests they go along with either a Lieutenant or a Sergeant.

f. Invoices: North Stonington Use of Animal Control Facility

According to Chief Stewart, \$150 was collected so far.

g. Letter Re: DDHVE April 2019 Reimbursement

FYI.

h. Letter Re: Salt Marsh Opera Event at Stonington Lighthouse

As a general rule, the police do not work private functions where alcohol is served, however, this event creates parking and traffic issues so two officers are hired.

i. K9 Fundraiser Approval (Also to go to Board of Selectman)

Currently the K9 is funded through the Police Department's budget. When the Department needs to bring in a new K9 it will be a big expense. This fundraiser will put money in the fund to help when the time comes to get a new K9.

Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to forward this to the Board of Selectmen for their approval on the acceptance of any funds that may be generated by this fundraiser. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

j. Police Radio Programming/Encryption/Safety Discussion *POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION*

Chief Stewart had a brief discussion with the Police Commissioners in regard to the Fire Department's scanners. He further discussed how the portables are picked up on the scanners and the importance of encryption. According to Chief Stewart, the Police Department is not fully encrypted since it is essential to be able to communicate with other departments that are not encrypted. He stated that this Department will go encrypted for about a month to test it. The former radio system is now a secondary system and it will not be a high priority to fix if it happens to go down. They have noticed that the patch has created some echoing.

Tabled to next meeting for possible executive session.

k. Article Re: "A win-win for everyone": Completion of \$1.4 million project allows Stonington police to tie in to State radio system"

FYI.

According to Chief Stewart, Saturday, September 7th is the Mystic Eats event and also, the Mystic Seaport plans to launch the Mayflower. He also informed the Police Commission that there recently was an untimely in Mystic and a Chaplain helped with the situation and was very successful. The CSO training begins on Monday. The new ACO starts on the 20th. Chief Stewart noted that, in addition to the portables that were purchased for the officers, he will also be ordering some less expensive portables for the CSO's and ACO's. He will be getting some used portables from the State for this purpose as well. Mr. LaSaracina will be installing equipment at West Vine Street School.

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

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Thank You Note: Family of Jerry Olson
- b. Memos Re: Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Applications
- c. Memo Re: Boathouse Park
- d. Letter & Highway Use Permit: AngelRide
- e. Letter Re: Taste of Mystic
- f. Letter Re: Reserve Officer Gilman Resignation
- g. Letter Re: Use of Roads for Road Races
- h. Memo Re: Lt. Peckham 20 Year Anniversary
- i. Letter Re: Thank You – Mystic Aquarium
- j. Thank You – Officer Paige, Officer Palmer & K9 Odin
- k. Letter Re: YMCA Donor Appreciation Celebration
- l. Letter Re: Thank You – Officer Brummund
- m. Letter Re: Feast of the Assumption Procession
- n. E-Mail Re: Special Olympics Sailing Regatta
- o. Borough 4th of July Parade

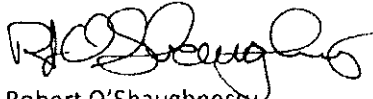
Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Chairman Trebisacci thanked Vice Chairman Gourd for running this meeting in his absence.

10. Adjourn

At 8:05 p.m., Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. O'Shaughnessy", written in a cursive style.

Robert O'Shaughnessy
Secretary