

July 26, 2017

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 and Selectman Mike Spellman. Selectwoman Kate Rotella was available by phone. Also present were members of the public and press.

**(1) Call to Order**

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**(3) Comments from the Public**

None

**(4) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the July 12, 2017 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.

**(5) Correspondence**

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Ms. Belinda de Kay, Director of the Stonington Free Library thanking the Town of Stonington for the recent grant to support the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Stonington Como thanking the Town of Stonington for waiving the building permit fee in regards to their upcoming renovation project.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Ocean Community YMCA thanking the Town of Stonington for supporting the modernization and expansion project at the Mystic branch.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Ben Philbrick in the form of an application for membership on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

**(6) Appointment/Reappointment**

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Raymond Dussault to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate member.

**Waterfront Commission**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Sandy Grimes and Mr. Michael Grimshaw to the Waterfront Commission.

**(7) Old Business**

**Discussion – Master Planning Agreement for Mystic River Boathouse Park**

Mr. Simmons stated that the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee had reviewed the agreement and voted to approve it at their meeting of July 10, 2017.

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

**(8) New Business**

**Request for Street Number Assignment**

**Assign Map 112, Block 1, Lot 1, Street Number 21 Hawley Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379**

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

**Discussion – Rat Infestation Update**

Mr. Simmons stated that while he was out of state Mr. Spellman managed the issue of the rat infestation and engaged Ledge Light Health District to move forward with their canvassing efforts. Mr. Simmons added that he appreciates the effort of Mr. Spellman, Ledge Light Health District as well as their staff members who canvassed over 300 sites.

Mr. Spellman stated that the issue of rats is not just a Stonington issue but a national issue. Mr. Spellman added that he reached out to city agencies in Chicago and New York to see what was happening at their level which was no different than what we are seeing locally.

Mr. Ryan McCammon, Supervisor of Environmental Health for Ledge Light Health District, gave an update on the rat infestation.

#### LLHD Summary of Rat Public Education, Canvassing and Follow-up for May 2017-July 24, 2017

- LLHD staff involved-8 (151 staff hours at >\$7,000 in salaries)
- Site visits-338 (318 week of 7/17/17-7/21/17)
- Mailings to residents-450 (postage cost \$207)
- Neighborhoods addressed-5 (Millan Terrace, Birdland, Pawcatuck Village, Thompson St and Edward St)

#### Findings:

- Properties with Rats-12 (2.48% of 483 total properties)
- Properties with Rat Harborage/Food but no Rats-10 (2.07%)
- Properties with Chickens-3 (0.62%)
- Orders Issued-2 (0.41%)

#### Next Actions:

1. Continue follow-up of complaints as they come in, work with properties where orders were issued and consider issuing orders to properties who are not complying or have an infestation.
2. Work with town departments who can assist with trash collection (Solid Waste), blight (Planning), chickens (Zoning), possible financial/social assistance to residents (Human Services) and property clean-up (Pawcatuck Fire Department).
3. Coordinate with Pest Control Operators about activity and actions (Griggs and Brown and Biotech).
4. Reach-out to Westerly about what they are seeing and doing on their side of the river.
5. Recommend a Pawcatuck Neighborhood Coalition of residents, Selectpersons, police, fire, LLHD, Human Services, solid waste and zoning/planning to create a dialogue for this and future neighborhood issues in Pawcatuck.

Mr. Simmons asked if the housing and feeding chickens in a densely populated neighborhood can contribute to the issue of rats. Mr. McCammon stated that it can contribute to the problem. Mr. Simmons stated that the Town may want to revisit the number of hens and/or size of lot permitted in a residential area.

Mrs. Rotella agreed and added they should take a closer look at the hen ordinance.

Mr. Simmons asked if we have stabilized the issue. Mr. McCammon stated that they have come a long way in the past few weeks to engage residents and added that it is going to take some time as this time of year is the most active time for rats.

Mrs. Rotella asked if they could arrange another community meeting to discuss further preventative measures. Mr. Simmons added that by the next meeting he will have the Town Attorney draw up a Pawcatuck Neighborhood Coalition document.

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to have the Town Attorney draft a Pawcatuck Neighborhood Coalition document for discussion and consideration at the next meeting.

In discussion, Mr. Spellman stated that he heard from many pet owners who were concerned about their animals getting inadvertently poisoned. Mr. Spellman added that residents should be aware that their neighbors may be using poison and to take precautions with their animals. Mr. Simmons stated that it is recommended that a professional exterminator be hired instead of trying to do it on your own as they use safety precautions when it comes to animals and humans.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Motion to Open Agenda**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to open the agenda and add the authorization to sign an agreement between Robinson + Cole and the K-12 School Building Committee.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to authorize the signing of the agreement between Robinson + Cole and the K-12 Building Committee after a final review was done by the Town Attorney.

**(9) Comments from the Public**

None

**(10) Comments from the Selectmen**

Mr. Spellman stated that he is hoping to present further information at the next meeting regarding a WWII era piece of equipment that was used at sea to pick up mines and torpedoes. Mr. Spellman added that Mr. Chris Dunklee is looking to donate it to the Town of Stonington for historical purposes.

Mr. Simmons thanked Mr. Spellman for filling in during his absence. Mr. Simmons added that one of the advantages of serving on the Board of Selectmen with such talented members is that any one of them can go away and the others will fill in without fear of bias or partisanship. Mr. Simmons stated that together they provide quality service that the citizens of the town have come to expect and deserve.

**(11) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.



Stacey Haskell  
Recording Secretary