

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 14, 2017
5:00 p.m. at the Stonington Police Headquarters**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Remarks of Public

3. New Business

a. Mystic Aquarium Run/Walk for Penguin Event *VOTE NEEDED*

Hannah Stewart – Director of Development, Mystic Aquarium

Lydia Shell – Development Operations Coordinator, Mystic Aquarium

Chief Stewart recused himself from this discussion.

Request from Mystic Aquarium to hold the 11th Annual Run/Walk for the Penguins. The Police Department has supported this event in the past. There will be an estimated 600 people in attendance. Captain Olson stated there have been no problems with this event in the past. The Aquarium notifies neighbors that the event will take place, and hires officers to assist participants crossing Coogan Boulevard. The course is identical to last year. Chairman Holt thanked Stewart and Shell for a great job with the event.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the 11th Annual Run/Walk for the Penguins event. The proper insurance has been submitted, so it is approved subject to any other regulations the Administration may impose. Commissioner Gourd seconded the motion, no discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

At this time, Chairman Holt reopened the Remarks of Public

2. Remarks of Public

Laura Graham
2 Moss Street, Pawcatuck

Laura Graham addressed the Commission with her concerns regarding speeding in her neighborhood. She stated that there are historic cobblestones at the beginning of Moss Street which act as "surrogate speed bumps", but that cars speed up as they head towards Palmer Street. She is interested in slowing down the traffic due to small children, pets, and wildlife in the area and suggested the installation of speed bumps in the road as Moss Street is slated for repavement.

Chief Stewart is not in favor of installing speed bumps. He stated that they work well in parking lots, but are a hazard on public roads. Traffic enforcement was discussed.

Commissioner Holt returned to New Business

b. St. Michael School Cross Country Course *VOTE NEEDED*

Doris Messina – Principal, St. Michael School
Jennifer Taylor – Cross Country Coach

Jennifer Taylor, St. Michael School Cross Country Coach is proposing a course on the streets behind St. Michael School for home meets. In the past, they have used the Stonington High School fields; however, availability is limited there. The course would involve two laps around the roads with coaches and parents stationed at critical points to keep runner's safe and on course. The team currently uses this route for practice during the week. There would be one or two meets from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. The season runs from October to mid-November.

Chief Stewart suggested finding alternate locations as there is concern with having 40-50 kids out running during peak commuting times. Several locations were suggested by Chief Stewart and other Commissioners. No action taken.

c. YMCA Events *VOTE NEEDED*

John Sutcliffe – Maintenance Director/Logistics Chair, Ocean Community YMCA Mystic Branch

Two events:

1. Tarzan Brown Race – November 5, 2017

Informational only, no police at event

2. Annual Turkey Trot Race – Thanksgiving Morning, 8:00 a.m.

Fun run that goes from Harry Austin Drive, right to Mason's Island, over the bridge, 1 ½ miles out and then back. Event has taken place for the past 15-20 years. It's a great family event. Chief Stewart has no issues, he stated the YMCA is good at recognizing the

increase in participants and hires officers accordingly. Captain Olson sends out an Everbridge message and the YMCA puts out signage to notify neighbors along the course.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the application for the Annual Turkey Trot Race subject to submission of insurance and any other requirements the Administration may impose. Commissioner Tabor seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

d. Request for Neighborhood Block Party – Moss Farm, Pawcatuck *VOTE NEEDED*

Janice Mink – 18 William Street, Pawcatuck
Nancy Dunn – 54 William Street, Pawcatuck

Neighborhood group requesting permission to hold a block party on Sunday 24, 2017 from 1-4 p.m. at the far end of William Street which would include games for kids, music, and tables on the sidewalks for food. They are expecting approximately 3 dozen participants. They are not requesting the road to be closed, but plan to "quiet" the road with cones.

Chief Stewart noted that speeding vehicles are a potential problem. He also stated in order to utilize the town road, they would have to follow the Town Special Event Policy which would include obtaining the proper insurance with coverage for alcohol and animals, finding someone willing to sign the hold harmless agreement, and hiring a police officer to close the road. He suggested the group speak with Leanne Theodore at Human Services to ask if they would be willing to sponsor the block party, and then it becomes a community event.

The group decided to hold the party at a private residence. No action taken.

4. Old Business

a. E-Mail Re: Fernando & Asher – Tabled from August 10, 2017 Meeting *POSSIBLE VOTE*

Chief Stewart recommends letters be sent to neighbors outlining the traffic issues, advising them of the request for stop signs at this location, and requesting any input they may have. Captain Olson will go out to the area and look at the sight lines to see if there are any safety issues. Tabled to the October 12 2017 meeting.

b. Request for Stop Signs – Holmes Street, Mystic *POSSIBLE VOTE*

Originally addressed during the July 17, 2017 meeting. Chief Stewart recommends placing one stop sign at the crosswalk on the north bound side of Holmes Street at Bay Street. The sign will state "Oncoming Traffic Does Not Stop". He feels this will solve the larger part of the issue presented. If after one year there are still problems, this can be revisited.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to accept the Chief's recommendation for placement of a stop sign on Holmes Street. Commissioner Tabor seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Request for One Way Street – Haley Street, Mystic *POSSIBLE VOTE*

Joanne Barres – 1 Haley Street Floor 2, Mystic

This was originally addressed at the July 13, 2017 meeting. Barres states that her car has been hit four times in the last two years – three of those were from cars trying to go west to east on Haley Street. She states that there is no room for cars to pass in both directions. Every car that goes west to east is just cutting through, they are not residents. She is requesting the road be made a one-way road.

Chief Stewart stated that Barres makes good points and that four times is too many to have your car struck. He recommends making Haley Street in Mystic one way from east to west on a one-year trial basis. At that time, this will be placed back on the Board of Police Commissioners meeting agenda.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to accept Chief Stewart's recommendation to make Haley Street in Mystic one way from east to west on a one-year trial basis, revisiting this in one year. Commissioner Tabor seconded the motion. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

5. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Follow Up on North Stonington Road Traffic

Ted Tylaska was in attendance on behalf of his mother, Betty Tylaska, who is a resident of North Stonington Road. He addressed the Commission with safety concerns he has regarding the parking each Fall on North Stonington Road in the area of Clyde's Cider Mill. He was pleased with the temporary "No Parking" signs, increased patrols and enforcement of "No Parking" zones last season and is requesting something more permanent from the Town. There was a discussion regarding the issues the police department faces in this area every Fall, and about possible solutions to alleviate the problems and ensure the safety of all on this road.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion that Administration review appropriate places for "No Parking" signs on North Stonington Road to ensure the safe and efficient flow of traffic. Commissioner Trebisacci seconded the motion. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart will go out to North Stonington Road to meet with Tylaska and take a look at the road. Commissioners Gourd and Tabor stated they would be happy to attend that meeting.

b. E-Mail Re: Request for Handicap Parking Spot *VOTE NEEDED*

Gay Mori – 9 Thompson Street, Pawcatuck

Mori was in attendance on behalf of her neighbor requesting a handicap parking spot in front of 10 Thompson Street in Pawcatuck. Mori and her husband assist their 90-year-old neighbor by taking her to appointments. There is an issue in pulling up far enough to safely get her in and out of the car. She has a handicap placard.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the request for a handicap parking spot in front of 10 Thompson Street in Pawcatuck as mapped out by the Administration. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. E-Mail Re: Request for Signs – Multi Purpose Field Parking Lot *VOTE NEEDED*

There is a dirt parking lot between the Human Services parking lot and the multi-purpose field that Stonington High School students have decided to park in as a way of not paying the parking pass fees instituted by the School Department. This is becoming a safety issue as there is no crosswalk for students to utilize at the end of the school day when there is increased traffic in the area. Stonington High School Administration is requesting signs reading "No Student Parking 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Monday – Friday" be installed. If students park there, enforcement action will be taken.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to have signs installed to make the multi-purpose parking lot "No Student Parking 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Monday – Friday". Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

d. E-Mail re: Stanton Road Bus Safety

This is a State road issue. Department of Transportation has said no to school bus signs as they are more for drivers and not students. There is no sight line issue, no curve or hill. FYI for Commission, Chief Stewart will reach out to individual who sent e-mail.

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, August 10 2017 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the minutes from the Thursday, August 10, 2017 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

b. Monthly Report

Increases in DUI's, motor vehicle stops, and arrests. Total number of larcenies up due to rash of thefts from motor vehicles.

c. Alarm Report

d. Events

e. Radio Project/Equipment Update *POSSIBLE VOTE*

Radio project is progressing. Waiting for numbers from Motorola. No vote needed at this time.

Chief Stewart noted that repairs have been made to the Police Department parking lot, and additional spaces have been added.

Recruit Long will be graduating from the Police Academy on September 19, 2017.

Chief Stewart will be attending the IACP Conference in Philadelphia in mid-October.

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

8. Consent Agenda

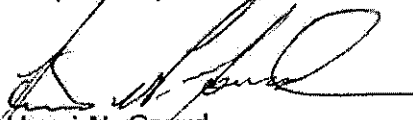
- a. Office of Victim Services Law Enforcement Information**
- b. CPCA 2017-2018 Committee Chairs**
- c. Letter Re: Fire Lanes – West Vine Street School**
- d. Letter Re: Tractor Supply False Alarms**
- e. Columbus Day Parade Letter**
- f. Letters Re: Thank You – CT Law Enforcement Memorial**
- g. Highway Use Permit – Columbus Day Parade**
- h. Letter: POSTC – Officer Rodgers**
- i. Letter Re: Thank You – Blessing of the Fleet 5K**
- j. Letter Re: Donation to Animal Control**
- k. E-Mail Re: Thank You – Sergio Franchi Concert**
- l. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Brummund**
- m. Memo Re: Job Well Done – State Capitol Police Department**
- n. Letter Re: Thank You – Chief Stewart**
- o. Memo Re: Job Well Done**

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

9. Adjourn

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henri N. Gourd
Secretary