

November 14, 2018

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, Selectwoman Kate Rotella and Selectman John Prue. Also, present were members of the public. There were no members of the press present.

(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

None

(4) Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Simmons stepped out of the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted to approve the October 24, 2018 special meeting minutes. Mr. Simmons was absent during the vote.

(5) Correspondence

Mr. Prue took in correspondence from the Blessing of the Fleet 5K Committee thanking the Board of Selectmen and Town of Stonington for supporting their road race this past summer.

Mr. Simmons returned to the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add the request from the Beautification Committee regarding a holiday tree as a discussion item under new business.

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Reappointment – Conservation Commission

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Jim Friedlander to the Conservation Commission.

(7) Old Business

None

(8) New Business

Discussion – Distressed Premise Ordinance

Mr. Jason Vincent, Director of Planning and Blight Enforcement Officer, gave a presentation regarding blight. He stated that blight enforcement was previously overseen by the First Selectman but in 2016 he began to oversee the process. As this is not part of any job description, he noted that further thought should go into ensuring the position is permanently placed within a job description. After a detailed presentation he recommended getting the community involved to understand blight, improving the enforcement process, assigning resources and providing tools to improve customer service.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board should consider adding a stipend for this position as they have for the Risk Manager and others to possibly shift the responsibilities from Mr. Vincent. Mrs. Rotella stated that she believes this can be easily added into someone's job description as a duty and asked if an additional FTE was needed. Mr. Vincent stated that an additional position was not needed.

After further discussion, the Board recommended that Mr. Vincent hold a public presentation, reach out to see how other towns oversee blight, research cost of software and verify further with the Town Attorney about changes to ordinance. The issue will be revisited at an upcoming meeting.

Request – Holiday Tree in Donahue Park

Ms. Carole Nossek, on behalf of the Beautification Committee, requested approval to place a holiday tree in Donahue Park in honor of Stonington’s First Responders. The request was circulated to the Police Department, Public Works and Planning and Zoning with all departments approving the request. Ms. Nossek stated the Beautification Committee will provide the tree and lights.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the request to place a holiday tree in Donahue Park.

Discussion – Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Use of Town Public Buildings

Mr. Simmons recommended revitalizing the committee as they have not met in in several years. He added that the purpose of the committee is to develop a town wide plan for addressing the current and long-term needs of Town owned public building not including the schools or WPCA. Several buildings are in need of review including Human Services and Town Hall. Mr. Simmons stated that six of the seven members terms have expired. He recommended reaching out those who have sat on the committee previously to see if they would like to reapply as well as accepting applications from others within the community.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to revitalize and repopulate the Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Use of Town Public Buildings.

(9) Comments from the Public

None

(10) Comments from the Selectmen

Mr. Prue congratulated Mrs. Rotella on her win as State Representative. He added that he is unsure how to hold discussions with her as the State Representative besides at the Board of Selectmen’s meetings to ensure they are following proper procedures. He further stated that as the State Representative he would like Mrs. Rotella to advocate for education cost sharing, LOCIP funding and sidewalks in Pawcatuck.

Mrs. Rotella thanked Mr. Prue and added that there are several other Towns who are in a similar situation whereby having someone serving dual roles.

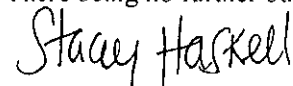
Mr. Simmons stated that the Plastic Bags & Straws Ad Hoc Committee held a Public Hearing and have come up with an interesting proposal. The proposal will be presented at a future joint meeting between both groups.

Mr. Simmons discussed the Mystic River Boathouse Park and their plans to continue to move forward.

Mr. Simmons presented Mrs. Rotella with a booklet that he received earlier in his career entitled *Ten Tips on Being a Good Legislator* and wished her the best of luck.

(11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.


Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary