

May 22, 2019

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 Selectwoman Jocelyn Kepple. Also, present were members of the public and press. Selectman John Prue arrived at 7:25 p.m.

(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

- Mr. Paul Sartor stated that he is not in favor of the proposed zoning change which is before the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding Smiler's Wharf.
- Ms. Jessica Morrissey agreed with Mr. Sartor's comments. She stated that she wants St. Michael School to take over West Broad Street School.
- Mr. Joe Higgins requested an update on Stillman Avenue.

(4) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the May 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

- None

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Reappointment – Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Michael Finiguerra, Mr. Dennis Unites, Mr. Raul Ferreira and Mr. Nicholas Salerno to the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission.

(7) Old Business

None

(8) New Business

Discussion – West Broad Street School Transition Review

Ms. Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works, gave an overview of transitioning West Broad Street School from the Board of Education to the Town effective on June 1st citing the upkeep of the building and grounds, the addition of fencing in the back to eliminate access to the parking area and keeping the playground open and accessible. Security measures are in place with fire, sprinkler and alarm systems as well as daily checks by public works staff and the police department. It was noted fencing would not be placed on the building side that faces Route 1.

Mr. Simmons stated that they will do everything to maintain the facade of the beautiful building while ensuring it is secured.

Discussion – Stonington Facilities Committee Update

Mr. Paul Sartor and Mr. Chris Donahue gave an overview of the Stonington Facilities Committee stating that they have held three open houses at West Broad Street School which resulted in about one hundred visitors to the site. Mr. Sartor stated that they have asked each person who attended to provide memories from the school as well as what they would and would not like to see go into the building. The committee is now organizing that data to come up with the results as well as waiting to hear back from Planning and Zoning regarding how the building can be used. The building is in a residential zone,

therefore, cannot be used as a business. It can still be used as a school with a special use permit. Mr. Donahue stated that it has been good to get the residents engaged in the process and the committee wants to keep the public involved. Mr. Prue stated that he was pleased with the committee's ability to get up and running so quickly. Ms. Kepple asked when they thought they would be ready to make a recommendation. Mr. Sartor stated within six months. Ms. Kepple asked if it was to stay a school could it be turned over prior to the fall. Mr. Sartor did not see why it couldn't be turned over prior to the fall. Mr. Simmons reminded everyone that the committee is going to forward their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen who will ultimately decide what happens to the building.

Request – Use of Donahue Park

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park on September 21, 2019 for the Mystic Garland Dancers' 40th Anniversary Day of Dance.

Request – Use of Town Dock

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the use of the Town Dock on September 21, 2019 for the Mystic Garland Dancers' 40th Anniversary Day of Dance.

(9) Comments from the Public

- Ms. Riley stated that six months to make a decision on West Broad Street School did not seem reasonable and thought it should happen sooner.
- Mr. Sartor stated it could be less than six months to come to a decision.
- Ms. Sue Jones asked if the fencing at West Broad Street School would include the blacktop and basketball hoop area.
- Ms. Barbara McKrell stated that the blacktop would remain open but the basketball hoops were going to be removed.

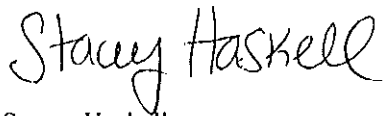
(10) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Kepple stated that there are a lot of changes going on in Town. She hoped that people continue to keep an open mind and listen to each other.
- Mr. Prue stated that public debates are great as long as they focus on the vision or future of the Town and not on personal attacks.
- Mr. Simmons gave an update on the history of Stillman Ave beginning with the emergency demolition through the current state. He added that the Town submitted an 86-page report to the EPA and DEEP which they needed to finalize their decision on when the Town can begin moving materials from the site. A meeting is expected before the end of the week. Mr. Simmons stated his disappointment that the decision to allow the Town to move forward has been held up for so long by the EPA.
- Mr. Simmons stated that residents should attend the Planning and Zoning Public Hearing next week to express their views for or against the development project (Smiler's Wharf) and added that Planning and Zoning operates under the state statute not under the Board of Selectmen.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he attended the funeral for the Town's former Director of Finance, Ms. Ruth Ann "Rudie" (Arruda) Beers, who recently passed away. He stated that she worked in a position that was typically male dominated and at the time of her retirement was the longest serving

Director of Finance in the State of CT. Further, he added she was a very talented, friendly and intelligent person.

(11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Haskell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary