

July 10, 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, Selectman John Prue and Selectwoman Jocelyn Kepple. Also, present were members of the public and press.

(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

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the June 26, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

None

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Russell McDonough to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission. The appointment is effective September 1, 2019 once Mr. McDonough's term expires on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Reappointment – Recreation Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Jeffrey Moore to the Recreation Commission.

(7) Old Business

Stonington Facilities Committee Update

Mr. Chris Donahue stated that after much review the Stonington Facilities Committee is recommending that the Board of Selectmen begin negotiations with Fr. Perkins of St. Michael School to explore the possibility of a short-term lease agreement of three to five years to utilize West Broad Street School. He added that Fr. Perkins is interested in occupying the space for the 2019-2020 school year.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to enter into discussions to explore the possibility of leasing West Broad Street School to St. Michael School.

In discussion, it was noted that the Stonington Facilities Committee would continue to explore other long-term options for the space as well as uses for the school administration building which will be given back to the Town in October. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

(8) New Business

Discussion – Donahue Park Hours

The Stonington Police Department requested that hours for Donahue Park be established and posted at the site due to an increase in late night issues at the park. Lieutenant Peckham stated that they are recommending the park be closed from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. which would follow the times that are in the nuisance ordinance.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to set the hours of Donahue Park to be closed from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. with the exception of special events or emergencies contingent on a review by the Town Attorney.

In discussion, Mr. Prue noted that he believes there is an exemption for fishing and requested that the Town Attorney review the state statutes. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Discussion – 2020 Census Complete Count Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Simmons stated that U.S. Census Bureau has requested each Town create a Complete Count Committee to create awareness and share the goal of counting everyone in the 2020 census.

Ms. Eva Bunnell, Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, spoke regarding the importance of getting a complete and accurate count. She added that by forming the Complete Count Committee it will help to get information out into the community to let residents know its importance. She stated it is required by law and protected by federal code which prohibits any of the information collected to be shared under any circumstances. She noted that the census will be completed by July 31, 2020.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously that pursuant to Charter Section 4-5(E), the Board of Selectmen hereby establish a 2020 Census Complete Count Ad Hoc Committee.

This Ad Hoc Committee will have a specific focus on getting an accurate census count for the Town of Stonington in 2020. Because of the political ramifications of this activity at least one Selectman, the Registrars, Director of Assessment and the Town Committee Chairs need to be involved. Human Services, the COMO and the PNC are recommended to be involved because they often deal with a population that does not get counted. IT will coordinate the computer terminals used for registration at the Human Services Department. And finally, the High School Principal is involved because high school students 18 years old and above are often hired as census takers making \$21 per hour.

Further a motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint the following to the 2020 Census Complete Count Ad Hoc Committee.

- First Selectman or designee
- Republican Registrar
- Democrat Registrar
- SRTC Chair
- SDTC Chair
- Director of Assessment or designee
- Human Services Director or designee
- Stonington IT Manager
- Stonington COMO Executive Director
- Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Executive Director
- Stonington High School Principal or designee

Request – Map 25, Block 1, Lot 11A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T for Captains Way, Pawcatuck, CT 06379 Street Numbers 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the request.

In discussion, it was noted this development is located off of a private road and does not meet the specification of a Town road. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

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 Saturday, August 3, 2019 (rain date Sunday, August 4, 2019) by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce for River Glow.

(9) Comments from the Public

None

(10) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Kepple thanked the Stonington Police Department, State Police and all other responders for their swift actions in their recent apprehensions of a murder suspect who was captured in the woods of the Pawcatuck Little League fields.
- Mr. Prue had no comments.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the rapid response of the Stonington Police Department was enhanced by the new radio system as they were able to talk exclusively on a private channel with the State Police as well as other assisting police departments.
- Mr. Simmons thanked the citizens and Planning and Zoning Commission for engaging in an extensive and comprehensive public hearing on the Smiler's Wharf application which resulted in late night meetings. He added that the Board of Selectmen have no jurisdiction over the Planning and Zoning Commission. He stated that he appreciates the orderly process of government which is what has occurred at the public hearings.

(11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary