

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, July 13, 2017
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Remarks of Public

Jesse Diggs, Vice Chairman of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission

Mr. Diggs encourages more police coverage in the harbor, especially to enforce the "No Wake" zone. They have been in contact with the DEP in regard to expanding the existing "No Wake" zone. The DEP needs evidence that there is a problem in that area. Mr. Diggs informed the Commission that the Harbor Master can stop and interact with boaters but he cannot issue tickets, however, he does document any incidents that occur.

Chief Stewart would like Mr. Diggs to forward the Harbor Master's records of incidents to Lieutenant Schneider. He also informed Mr. Diggs that the budget for the Stonington Police Department's boat is somewhat limited. We may need to look into increasing the police boat line item in the next budget period.

Chairman Holt noted that the Commission has spoken to Chief Stewart about more utilization of the police boat. He encourages Mr. Diggs to look at the Harbor Master's incident reports and police activity from Lieutenant Schneider to show the DEP about the "No Wake" zone issues. Mr. Diggs noted that it is hard to enforce the "No Wake" zone as it is now and changing it without being able to enforce it will not make much of a difference.

Chairman Holt and the Commission thanked Mr. Diggs for his time.

3. New Business

a. Mystic Eats Event *VOTE NEEDED*

Kristin Hartnett, Downtown Mystic Merchants

Jackie Hewes, Downtown Mystic Merchants

Ms. Hartnett informed the Commission that the Mystic Eats Event will take place September 8th -10th and will be the same as last year. The beer tent will be set up on the private property of Seaport Marina and Cottrell Street will be closed to traffic. She asked Chief Stewart about the cost of hiring officers to which Chief Stewart replied that the cost will be roughly 3% higher than last year. The only small change Ms. Hewes brought up is that they will need an escort for the night drop to a bank in Groton to which Captain Olson stated that there would be no issue in providing that escort. Chief Stewart noted that beer ticket sales end at 9:30pm, the taps are shut down at 9:45pm and the music ends at 10pm.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to approve the Mystic Eats event held on September 8th-10th as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Maria Assunta Processions *VOTE NEEDED*

Vice Chairman Trebisacci stated that the procession route has been given to the Commissioners and the event has been running for 89 years. Chief Stewart sees no issues with the event.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the Maria Assunta Processions event held on Friday, August 11th and Sunday, August 13th as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Vice Chairman Trebisacci abstained. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Planning & Zoning Site Plan Application: Stone Acres Farm *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Clint Brown, DiCesare Bentley Engineers, Inc
Jane Simmons Meiser, Stone Acres Farm, LLC

Mr. Brown informed the Commission that they have already presented the master plan for the project to this Commission. It was also presented and approved by Planning and Zoning. Mr. Brown is now before the Commission to present Phase I of the project which is to convert the existing carriage house into a market, formalize the event venue space (no permanent structures) and install infrastructure for the project, which includes parking, well, septic, lighting and landscaping.

There will be a curb cut for a new driveway out onto North Main Street. They are currently going through the process with Planning and Zoning to get the proper approvals for the new driveway which will be signed and designated for access to parking. The sightlines for the new driveway are good. The new driveway will be two-way at the main entrance then change to one-way to go around to the parking lot then back out the main entrance. The existing driveway will be for access to the farm and for deliveries, emergency vehicles and other authorized vehicles. There will be no access to Route 1 or the commuter lot from the Stone Acres Farm property.

Parking will be gravel and grass areas consisting of 164 spaces which makes 100% of the desired parking available during Phase I. Special events over 100 people will get two traffic attendants and events under 100 will get one attendant. This will help facilitate parking and keep people from parking along North Main Street. Arrangements for bus transport will also be made to discourage parking along North Main Street when necessary. All special events will be over at 10pm and the maximum number of people is 250. If more than 250 people are expected, Stone Acres Farm will apply for a special use permit. There was some discussion on the number of employees. This number will vary depending on the event. They will encourage using private shuttles to help with parking availability for both staff and visitors.

Mr. Brown also informed the Commission that safety lighting will be installed. There will be pedestrian scale bollard type lighting approximately 4-5ft high which will only be used during events or while the facility is open. There will also be security lights on the property. There will be a safe and convenient path from the parking area to the facility. The applicant is also looking into installing cameras.

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that he wrote a letter to Planning and Zoning that it may be necessary to put one or two "No Parking" signs on North Main Street in the future. He also strongly encouraged Stone Acres Farm to install cameras on the property.

Chief Stewart will inform Planning and Zoning that there are no further comments from the Police Commission.

d. Planning & Zoning Application: Zoning Text & Map Amendment – Downtown Pawcatuck *Comments NEEDED*

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that the zoning in Downtown Pawcatuck has changed from DB-5 and LS-5 to PV-5. This will encourage new business and growth in that area. Commissioner Gourd asked Chief Stewart if this zoning change will have any impact on the police department and on parking downtown. Chief Stewart replied that it is hard to tell because there is no way to foresee what businesses will develop in that area but this definitely encourages growth. It looks like Planning and Zoning are trying to relax regulations in the Downtown Pawcatuck area.

Chief Stewart will forward to Planning and Zoning with the comment to keep in mind parking and traffic issues and to please keep the Commission informed.

4. Old Business

a. Sergio Franchi Concert *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart noted that there is nothing different from last year. This event has been running for about 20 years. They expect between 2,500 and 4,000 people if it is a nice day. There is no alcohol or food service at this event. The police department helps with traffic, parking and security during the event.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to approve the Sergio Franchi Concert held on Saturday August 26th 11am to 6pm as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy abstained. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Garlic Festival *VOTE NEEDED*

Chris Regan, Regan Enterprises, on behalf of the Olde Mistick Village
Bill Middleton, owner, Jealous Monk

Mr. Regan informed the Commission that they are bringing back the same proposal that was presented to this Commission by Annie Hettick at the May 11th, 2017 Regular Meeting. Ms. Hettick was not available to attend the meeting tonight.

Mr. Middleton informed the Commission that the purpose of adding the Beer Tasting to the Garlic Festival event is to draw in a more diverse crowd to experience both the Garlic Festival and to be able to interact with local brewers. It will add to the existing event and keep people coming back. He showed the Commission the 3oz glass that will be provided at the beer tasting. Beer consumption will be strictly monitored and tightly controlled. They are looking at between 20-25 brewers. The Beer Tasting will be held under a tent that is enclosed on all sides with one entrance. Mr. Middleton also stated that there will be limited ticket sales.

Members of the Police Commission were having a hard time seeing how this is not a new event. They further reiterated that there is a huge load on the Police Department regarding the number of events already taking place in town which has necessitated putting a moratorium on approving new events. Adding the Beer Tasting to the Garlic Festival would require more police presence at this event than there has been in the past.

Chief Stewart noted that if there are pre-ticket sales and it is limited to 100 people per tasting session it would be manageable for the Department. He believes that 2-3 officers would be required. He is cautious about

opening the door to allow other similar events but he suggests that this is given a one-time trial run and if there are no issues it may possibly be approved in the future. The Beer Tasting would only be run during the Garlic Festival and at the times designated in the proposal. This cannot be a weekly event and cannot resemble a Beer Fest. Lisa Konicki, Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce, was in attendance and she encourages this addition to the event.

Chief Stewart also commended Ms. Hettick for doing her research and providing him with information on tastings and how the addition of this Beer Tasting will impact the Department. He also noted that the police need a site plan or sketch of the tent area including barricades that will be in place to control the area.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci noted that this event would be similar to Mystic Eats with their Beer Tent and it will enhance the Garlic Festival. He can see how one complements the other.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to approve the Garlic Festival event held on Saturday, September 16th from 11am to 7pm and Sunday, September 17th from 11am to 6pm as submitted including the Beer Tasting proposal on the condition that it is done as presented with strict limits and only within the Garlic Festival event and with the understanding that this approval is a one-time deal and will have to be presented to the Police Commission for future approval. Only 100 tickets are to be sold per session and each session is as follows: Saturday, September 16th from 1pm-3pm then 5pm-7pm and Sunday, September 17th from 3pm-5pm. Also, upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. Discussion: a site plan or sketch of the tent area will need to be submitted to the Chief prior to the event in order to determine the number of additional officers necessary. Commissioner Tabor abstained. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Legends Smoke Shop Alarm Fines *ACTION NEEDED*

Chief Stewart visited with the owner. As a new business, there were initial alarm issues. Chief Stewart informed him to mail in a check as payment for the fine, if payment is not received prior to August 1, 2017, Chief Stewart recommends that the Commission suspend police service to alarm calls.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion in regard to the Legends Smoke Shop alarm fines, that unless the owner pays the past due notice in accordance with the Town Ordinance by August 1, 2017, police service to alarms at this business will be suspended. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

5. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Request for Stop Signs – Holmes Street and Bay Street *POSSIBLE VOTE NEEDED*

Heidi & Matt Ferrier, 42 Holmes Street Mystic, CT

Mr. & Mrs. Ferrier, along with several other neighbors, informed the Commission about their increasing concerns with speeding on Holmes Street. They feel that no one follows the 25mph speed limit, people do not stop for pedestrians on the crosswalk and delivery trucks also drive above the speed limit. There is a changing dynamic in the residences on Holmes Street. Younger families with small children now live here and residents are concerned for their safety. The Ferrier's recently lost a pet due to a hit and run on Holmes Street.

The Ferrier's and neighbors suggest putting in stop signs on Holmes Street at Bay Street. They feel this will slow traffic and help with the poor sightlines at the Bay Street intersection. It was also noted that there are parking issues as well. Many vehicles are parked too close to the crosswalk and park right to the corner which could

create a problem for emergency vehicles. The area is extremely congested and residents are asking the Commission for a solution to the speeding problem.

Chief Stewart stated that stop signs are not a solution to speed, however, due to the fact that there is a crosswalk at that intersection, he is more inclined to consider stop signs. He did note that stop signs will create more noise with the truck and motorcycle traffic. Chief Stewart further explained that police presence and speed signs will help with the speeding issues. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy noted that stop signs may cause issues and potential backups on Route 27. Chief Stewart will look at that aspect as well. Chairman Holt mentioned that speed signs have been placed in reported problem areas and the data has come back that speeds are lower than the residents think. Mrs. Ferrier feels that speed signs are a temporary fix and that stop signs are permanent.

Chief Stewart asked the residents to elect a spokesperson for the group to meet with him in the Holmes Street area to look at the issues firsthand. He also asked to be given specific times of day that are most troublesome so that he can insure police presence in the area at those times.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy feels that the Chief needs an opportunity to analyze the area and give his input to the Commission in order to revisit this next meeting. Chief Stewart also noted that making Holmes Street one way was on the table years ago and it may be worthwhile to revisit this issue with the town planner.

Tabled.

b. E-mail Re: Request for "No Parking" Sign – Bay Street @ Isham Street *POSSIBLE VOTE NEEDED*
Chief Stewart will look at this issue while in the area addressing the Holmes Street issue.

Tabled.

c. Letter Re: Haley Street, Mystic
Joanne Barres and Kristin Marshall, 1 Haley Street Mystic, CT

Ms. Barres informed the Commission that her vehicle, while parked legally on Haley Street, has been hit four times in the last two years. Ms. Marshall brought in photos to show the Commissioners the issues with delivery trucks using the street. They both feel that the road is too narrow for traffic to go in both directions. They suggest that the road be changed to one-way from East to West. It seems that truck and tourist traffic usually go West to East so this one-way proposal will eliminate that traffic.

Chief Stewart stated that he will speak to the town planner and the town engineer. He also noted that Mystic is very busy and the roads are very small but their needs to be a balance and flow with residents and businesses. He also noted that one-ways can create more speeding.

Chief Stewart will look into this issue further.

d. E-Mail Re: Installation of Speed Limit Signs – Clara Drive, Mystic *POSSIBLE VOTE NEEDED*
Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to install 20 mph speed limit signs by MasoniCare on Clara Drive. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

e. Traffic Investigation Report – "Do Not Block Intersection" "Subject to Fine" Signs & Markings
Chief Stewart gave this to the Commission as an FYI.

f. CT DOT Pedestrian Signing & Pavement Marking Project on Locally-Owned & Maintained Roads Completed Form *FYI*

According to Chief Stewart this form was submitted to the State. It is a grant program for improvements to crosswalks. Chief Stewart submitted the crosswalks on Pequotsepos Road by the Nature Center and West Vine Street by the school.

g. Liberty Crossing – Two Year Extension

This is in regard to the DOT permit. The extension has been approved.

h. Letter Re: Route 184 @ Jeremy Hill Road and Route 1 @ Mason's Island Road/Hewitt Road

Chief Stewart sent a letter to the State regarding this issue.

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, June 8, 2017 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 11, 2017 regular meeting as presented. Commissioner Gourd abstained due to absence. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

According to Chief Stewart the bottom line is in good shape. The Department was over in training and outfitting but overall the Department was under budget.

b. Monthly Report

Chief Stewart briefly went over some of the numbers in his monthly report. There have been 146 speeding summonses to date. There were 71 arrests last month, 17 of them were assaults.

c. Alarm Report

Chief Stewart will follow up with Legends Smoke Shop.

d. Special Event Schedule

There will be two less events this year. Shark Fest was cancelled.

e. Firearms *POSSIBLE VOTE*

Chief Stewart met with Witmer Public Safety Group at the CT Police Chiefs Association Expo in Southington and spoke to them about their gun return program. Gun maintenance roughly costs the Department \$100 per gun. Trade-in value for our Glocks is \$315 each and trade in value for the shotguns is \$100 each. He got a quote to replace all 51 guns at \$7854.00. The new guns, Generation 4 models, are ambidextrous. The Department can also upgrade shotguns at a cost of approximately \$3000.00. The Departments current guns are 6 years old. Chief Stewart will meet with the Board of Finance to arrange financing on these trade-ins.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the trade-in of the Glocks and shotguns as proposed by Chief Stewart. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

f. Letter Re: Route 184 @ Jeremy Hill Road and Route 1 @ Mason's Island Road/Hewitt Road

g. Southeastern Connecticut Regional Traffic Unit Mutual Police Assistance Compact

This item was approved by the Selectman.

DRAFT

Chief Stewart also noted that the Department is sending an officer to become a certified accident reconstructionist.

h. Memorandum of Agreements:

- 1. Town of Stonington and Mystic Seaport**
- 2. Town of Stonington and Whaler's Inn**

i. Survey to Determine Compliance with the State of Connecticut Family Violence Model Policy Pursuant to Public Act 12-114

j. Final Mutual Aid Agreement for L.E.C

k. Letter Re: Waltham Services Increase in Cost of Services

l. Regional Community Enhancement Task Force Interlocal Agreement

m. Southeastern Connecticut Regional Traffic Unit Mutual Police Assistance Compact

n. Vehicle Line Up for FY2017-2018

As of January 1, 2018, the Department will have 39 officers. According to Chief Stewart, the Department is continuing to have issues with the number of cruisers available. He again proposed that it would be beneficial to only trade 1 car when 4 new cars come in so that 3 older cars can be kept for traffic and road details.

o. Planning & Zoning Variance Application Re: Electronic Billboard *FYI*

This item was not approved by Planning and Zoning.

p. Illegal Road Signs

There were some road signs that were put up without Commission or DOT approval. All the signs have been removed. They were claimed at the State DOT garage. Chief Stewart will write a letter to those involved in putting up the signs. According to State Statute, putting up signs without approval could carry a civil fine of \$100 per day. Signs of this type were looked at previously but were not installed because the road could not support it. Route 27 is not wide enough to support bike signs according to DOT.

q. Police Radio Update

Chief Stewart noted that there will be more to follow regarding the radios. The Department is heading in an extremely advantageous direction.

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

Chief Stewart introduced Dan Price and Joe Perkins to the Commission. They are new Police Commissioners for the Town of East Lyme who were in attendance to observe a Police Commission meeting.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Highway Use Permit: Mystic Art Festival**
- b. POSTC Performance Records**
- c. Records Disposal Authorization**
- d. Letter Re: River Glow**

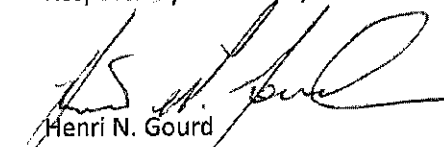
- e. Memo Re: Heartsafe Signs
- f. Special Olympics Connecticut Sailing Regatta
- g. Memo Re: Good Job – Officers Discordia & C. Murray
- h. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Paige
- i. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Detective Howard
- j. Letter Re: Certification of Reserve Officer Gilman
- k. Public Notice Re: Shoreline Erosion Protection *FYI*
- l. Memo Re: Comments for Forum on Golden Triangle *FYI*
- m. Law Enforcement Application for Participation

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

9. Adjourn

At 7:10 p.m., Commissioner O’Shaughnessy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gourd, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henri N. Gourd
Secretary