

December 4, 2019

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 4:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough, Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie. Also, present were members of the public and press.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(4) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the November 13, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Ms. Julia Parry in the form of an application for the Climate Change Task Force.

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Acknowledgement – Vacancies Due to Board of Selectmen Member Resignations

Ms. Chesebrough acknowledged that after the election members of the Board of Selectmen stepped down from the Economic Development Commission, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Stormwater Task Force, WPCA and K-12 Building Committee.

Appointment – K-12 Building Committee

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Alexa Garvey as the Board of Education representative to the K-12 Building Committee.

Appointment – Economic Development Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Bill Hobbs from an alternate to a regular member of the Economic Development Commission.

Appointment – Acting First Selectman

Section 5-4 of the Town Charter states that within 30 days of taking office, the Board of Selectmen shall elect one of its members to function as Acting First Selectman in the absence of the First Selectman. Ms. Chesebrough noted that she would like both selectwomen to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity if she is absent.

A motion was made by Ms. Chesebrough, seconded by Ms. Downie and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. June Strunk as Acting First Selectman in the absence of the First Selectman.

(7) Old Business

None

(8) New Business

Discussion – Board of Selectman Assignments

Ms. Chesebrough stated that the Board of Selectmen are ex-officio members of all Boards/Commissions in the Town. They discussed taking time to review the list of Boards/Commissions and dividing them up amongst each other. The point person would attend meetings, review minutes and report back to the Board of Selectmen, if needed.

Discussion ensued regarding representation that is needed on the K-12 Building Committee, Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee, Stonington Facilities Committee, Ledge Light Heath District Board and Westerly Library Board of Trustees.

The Board needed further information on the dates/times of the Ledge Light Health District Board and Westerly Library Board of Trustees and would discuss representation at a future meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously that Board of Selectmen members would represent the following:

- K-12 Building Committee – June Strunk
- Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee – Debbie Downie
- Stonington Facilities Committee -- Debbie Downie

Discussion – Creation of and/or Revitalization of Boards/Commissions/Task Force

Ms. Chesebrough stated that she was interested in forming a Communications Task Force to gain input on how the Town can improve communications with residents. She included thoughts on what types of mediums should be explored including social media, website and the potential creation of a Town newsletter and podcast. The intent of the group would be to see what ways other Towns are communicating with their residents and to implement new lines of communication within Town. Ms. Chesebrough stated that she would like to move the item forward and speak to the Town Attorney regarding the creation of the Task Force. Ms. Strunk and Ms. Downie were in agreement.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to begin the process of creating a Communications Task Force.

The Board discussed the Sustainable CT Program which is a voluntary certification program that recognizes municipal efforts to achieve sustainability. The Board discussed if a Task Force should be formed to oversee this program but felt it may be best to keep the item as something the Board of Selectmen would oversee. The Board will review the program further and discuss at a future meeting.

Ms. Chesebrough stated that she would like to consider revitalizing the Charter Revision Commission to consider and discuss the Town Clerk and Tax Collector positions from being elected to being hired, changing the Board of Selectmen's term from two year to four and term limits. She added that based on the legal requirements if they want to put changes on the ballot for the November 2020 election, they need to start the process now. Although the Board can task the commission to review the areas mentioned, once they open the Town Charter, they can recommend its own changes.

Ms. Strunk and Ms. Downie wanted more time to review the minutes of the Charter Revision Commission. The item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Ms. Downie suggested considering if a Brownfield Task Force is something that should be created.

(9) Comments from the Public

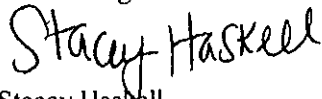
None

(10) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie gave an overview of environmental reports that she read regarding the Boathouse property. She stated her concerns regarding the cost of the project as there are other brownfields in the town that need attention as well.
- Ms. Strunk stated that she read through all of the boathouse park minutes and was enlightened to realize that the money that was bonded was just for the park. She stated that further funding will be needed to complete the project and hoped that would be discussed further at the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation meeting which will be held on Saturday. Further, she stated her excitement in working on the upcoming budget.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that Ms. Downie can reach out to anyone involved with the Mystic River Boathouse Park project to ask questions. She thanked everyone for a very productive first meeting.

(11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary