

September 23, 2020

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special virtual meeting on this date at 5:30 p.m. This meeting was also streamed on Facebook live and was available via audio on a conference line. First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough, Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie were in attendance. No public or press were present in the room. Public and press were able to view via Facebook live as well as audio through a conference call.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the special meeting minutes of August 26, 2020.

(4) Correspondence

- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from the Climate Change Task Force providing a quarterly update.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Carrie McWilliams, Stephen Freitas, Robert Emery, John Nazzaro, Bryan Bentz, Patricia Coan and Lisa Tepper Bates in the form of an applications for the Board of Police Commission (BOPC). Ms. Chesebrough thanked the applicants for their interest in the Commission.

Ms. Chesebrough noted that the Board of Selectmen will be holding interviews for the vacancy on the Board of Police Commission sometime in the first few weeks of October. All the applicants will be contacted to provide details regarding the interviews. The interviews will be streamed virtually during a special Board of Selectmen meeting.

- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Katie Martin in the form of an application for the Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Marcy Riley, Susan Hibbard and Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild in the form of an application for the Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee (POCD).

(5) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Katie Martin, Bruce Flax, Denise Easton, Daniel McFadden and Ann Harvey as regular members and Kristin Clarke and Elizabeth Young as alternate members of the Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee.

Reappointment – Architectural Design Review Board

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Christopher Thorp and Christopher Delany to the Architectural Design Review Board.

(6) Old Business

Update on COVID-19

Yale New Haven Hospital will provide free COVID testing for those that are asymptomatic on September 25th and October 2nd in the parking lot behind the Human Services building.

Discussion – Update to Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee

Ms. Chesebrough noted that when the Board of Selectmen originally discussed and formed the mission of the Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee they were given a timeline which was set to end August 31, 2020. As the Committee was not seated until this meeting, Ms. Chesebrough recommended the following:

- Extending their timeline to provide recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on or before October 31, 2021.

Addition to the mission to include:

- Explore ways for Boards/Commission to better communicate with the public as well as with each other.

Changes to the wording in item two on the mission list to read:

- Consider the establishment of a Town newsletter and other forms of communications, including the costs involved.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve extending the timeline of the Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee through October 31, 2021 as well as making the recommended additions to their mission.

The updated Mission now reads as follows:

The Board of Selectmen hereby establish the following mission statements for the Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee:

1. Explore how the Town can better communicate with the public through the use of social media and the Town website;
2. Consider the establishment of a Town newsletter and other forms of communications, including cost involved;
3. Explore ways for Boards/Commission to better communicate with the public as well as with each other;
4. Contact other municipalities for suggestions and recommendations as to best provide and obtain information from Town residents; and
5. Make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen consistent with their findings on or before October 31, 2021.

(7) New Business

Request – Building Permit Fee Waiver for Inclusion: A Sylvestre Foundation

Ms. Chesebrough gave an overview of the request stating the Sylvestre Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports community members with disabilities and provides inclusive programming in schools recently acquired property at 101 West Broad Street. They will be renovating the property to design a long-term solution for programming and support for adults in the community at the site to include life, employment and social skills educations as well as residential living, an area for health care providers, telehealth and Administration. They anticipate spending over a million dollars on the project and are requesting a building permit waiver of \$8,138.00.

Mr. Sylvestre gave further details regarding the organization. Ms. Strunk and Ms. Downie requested additional time to speak with Mr. Sylvestre and learn more about the non-profit.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted to table the item to allow further time to review the request.

(8) Comments from the Public

None

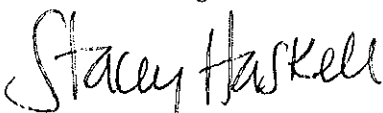
(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie noted the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her dedication to compassionate public service. Further, she acknowledged Matthew Beaudoin of Mystic Knotworks who was named SBA CT's Small Business Person of the Year.

- Ms. Strunk stated that the K-12 Building Committee was able get the water pressure issue at Deans Mill School fixed by working with Aquarion who completed the work primarily at their cost. She gave an overview of the recent Planning and Zoning meeting and noted that during the upcoming budget cycle she would be advocating for updates to the Town's zoning regulations. She gave an overview of the Climate Change Task Force meeting. She suggested that a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Finance join the Climate Change Task Force.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that the Board of Finance approved an additional future appropriation of \$130,000 to use toward sidewalk design work and also gets the Town to 90% of funding. The Community Garden Crowdfunding Project will be launching through Sustainable CT which will match funds raised to create an ADA accessible garden on the grounds at Town Hall.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.



Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary