



Town of Stonington, Connecticut Boards and Committees Directory

Updated December 2020

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I. Appointment Process

In order to serve on any Board, Commission, Committee, or Authority, interested parties must be registered to vote in the Town of Stonington. There are many resources you can use to learn about the opportunities in the Town of Stonington. As well as this directory, on the town website, there is a page with all the boards' and committees' websites, each website will have more information about the board as well as meeting minutes, agendas, and schedules. We recommend that any interested parties attend the meetings and look at the meeting minutes to help decide if the board is the right fit for you. Additionally, on the First Selectmen's office website you can find PDFs of both the directory of members of all the boards and the potential vacancies that each board may have.

Anyone who is interested in being appointed to a board must complete an application which will outline your information as well as your interests and background that would apply to the board of your choice. A link to a copy of this application can be found below. The application can then be returned to the office of the First Selectman. The applicant will be put in touch with the Chair of the respective Board or Commission as a first step. If there is more than one person interested in an open position, the applicants will be asked to interview with the Board of Selectmen. All applications will be considered for one (1) year and you will be notified if you are selected to serve.

Additional questions can be directed towards the office of the First Selectman at (860) 535-5050

Helpful Links:

1. Application PDF:

https://www.stonington-ct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3851/f/file/file/application_for_board_or_commission.pdf

2. Boards and Committees Website:

<https://www.stonington-ct.gov/boards>

3. Vacancies and Directory located under the Boards/Commissions Vacancies Tab

<https://www.stonington-ct.gov/selectmens-office>

Active Boards and Committees

1. Aging Commission

Status	Active
Description	Discusses issues concerning the elderly such as housing, nutrition, employment, health, recreation, social services, and transportation. as well as plan, coordinate, develop and review programs to meet the needs and to improve the conditions of the elderly and aging. The commission is an advocate for the elderly and aging and makes recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and at annual town meeting regarding services. The commission also reviews and recommends applications for federal, state, local and private funds for programs for the elderly and aging.
Members	12 members: 1 Chair and 10 members
Joining	Appointed by Board of Selectmen for 3-year terms
Contact/Head:	R.J. Connelly III (860) 535-5015
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/aging-commission

2. Architectural Design Review Board

Status	Active
Description	Serves as an advisory Board for the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Board advises and approves plans for commercial, industrial, multi-family, and institutional developments with regards to scale, massing, colors and proportions of buildings, landscaping, public space, lighting and signage. The Board aims to promote development projects that are in harmony with Stonington's architectural heritage, and which preserve and improve the appearance, beauty and character of the community.
Members	1 Chair, 4 members, 1 Alternative member
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectmen for 3-year terms
Contact/Head:	Michael McKinley (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/architectural-design-review-board

3. Board of Assessment Appeals

Status	Active
Description	Reviews and hears appeals from the assessments conducted and featured on the Grand List compiled by the Assessment Department. Determines hearing dates and informs owners of the hearing date and time.
Members	1 Chair, 2 members, 2 alternative members
Joining	3 members elected for 4-year terms
Contact/Head:	Stephen Palmer (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/board-of-assessment-appeals

4. Board of Education

Status	Active
Description	Manages the Town of Stonington educational system which includes Stonington High School, Stonington Middle School, Deans Mill School, and West Vine Street School. Reviews and updates school curriculums and provides structural support for the school within the district including a bus system, policies regarding safety, and partnerships with local organizations and departments like the Police department and local business like the Mystic Seaport.
Members	6 members
Joining	Elected
Contact/Head:	Frank Todisco (Chair) (860) 246-8775
Board Link:	https://www.stoningtonschools.org/board-of-ed/meet-our-board-members

5. Board of Finance

Status	Active
Description	Reviews the Town budget and the Five-Year Plan. Holds one or more public hearings for taxpayers to be heard on the details of the town budget and later publishes a summary of the hearing in a local newspaper. Manages the Town's financial needs. Appoints Director of Assessment.
Members	7 members
Joining	Elected for 4-year terms
Contact/Head:	Timothy O'Brien (Chairman)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/board-of-finance

6. Board of Selectmen

Status	Active
Description	Enforces and implements Town acts, policies, ordinances, and resolutions. Appoints members for Boards, Commissions, Agencies, and Offices for the town. Holds power to declare a public emergency and the ability to accept or reject collective bargaining agreements. The Board provides continuous review of current and projected administrative, fiscal and capital need for the Town. Prepares and publishes the Annual Report. The Board of Selectmen is an essential governing body of the Town.
Members	3 Members including 1 First Selectman and 2 Selectmen
Joining	Elected every 2 years
Contact/Head:	Danielle Chesebrough (First Selectman) (860) 535-5050
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/board-of-selectmen

7. Building Code Board of Appeals

Status	Active
Description	Establishes fees for applications, permits, and certifications under the Building code.
Members	5 members
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectmen for 3-year terms
Contact/Head:	David Capizzano and Steven Grills (Members)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/building-code-board-of-appeals

8. Capital Improvement Advisory Committee

Status	Active
Description	<p>Advises and coordinates the Five-Year Plan including an expenditures budget schedule. Committee shall review all proposed capital expenditures submitted for Town Meeting approval as part of the Annual Budget or as special appropriations and shall report its findings to the Board of Selectmen based on the following considerations:</p> <p>(a) the extent to which the proposed expenditure is needed; (b) what alternatives to proceeding with the proposed expenditure exists; (c) the soundness of the proposal in terms of need to be fulfilled; and (d) the likely consequences of the cost of the proposed expenditures on the Town's financial position and mill rate.</p>
Members	1 Chair, 15 total members; to serve two (2) year terms concurrent with the Board of Selectmen's term of office. Such committee shall consist of members selected existing Town positions and Commissions.
Joining	Appointed by Board of Selectmen
Contact/Head:	Patti Burmahl (Chair) (860) 535-5000
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/capital-improvement-advisory-committee

9. Climate Change Task Force

Status	Active
Description	<p>Reviews the Town's progress with preventing climate change and provides ideas and plans for the reduction and education of climate change. Projects of the Task Force include advocating for the increase of the climate change resiliency plan to \$10,000, and finding ways to overlap and coordinate with other departments to increase environmental awareness and progress all over the town.</p>
Members	1 Chair, 1 Secretary, 6 members
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectmen
Contact/Head:	Rick Newton (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/climate-change-task-force

10. Conservation Commission

Status	Active
Description	Studies the use and possible use of land within the Town and presents idea for conservation of that land. Created and maintains an open space program to preserve and conserve the open space present in the Town as well as ensuring its longevity and permeance.
Members	7 members and 1 alternate
Joining	Appointed by the board of Selectmen
Contact/Head:	Stuart Cole (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/conservation-commission

11. Economic Development Commission

Status	Active
Description	Encourages and develops business relations within the community to promote growth and prosperity. The Commission focuses on 6 economic clusters: maritime, agriculture and fishing, real estate, tourism, manufacturing, and elder care. The commission also meets with investors to guide them before submitting their application and advocates for business at the Planning and Zoning Committee meetings.
Members	9 members and 3 alternates
Joining	Appointed by the board of Selectmen
Contact/Head:	Dave Hammond (Chair)
Board Link	https://stonington1649.com/contact
Website:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/economic-development-commission
Facebook:	https://stonington1649.com/ https://m.facebook.com/The-Stonington-Economic-Development-Commission-1575845362631860/?fref=nf

12. Ethics Commission

Status	Active
Description	Defines ethical operation within the Town of Stonington to ensure the trust and support from the public. Investigates and tries possible Ethic code violations of those working for the Town.
Members	5 members and 3 alternates as needed
Joining	Majority Selectmen will appoint 3 members and two alternates Minority Selectmen will appoint 2 members and 1 alternate No member can hold or campaign for office, hold office in any political party, or serve as a member of any other municipal agency, Commission or Board
Contact/Head:	Members are appointed on an as needed basis.
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/ethics-commission

13. Housing Authority

Status	Active
Description	Operates the Edythe K. Richmond Homes for seniors and adults with disabilities who can live independently. The Housing Authority owns 60 residences that provide affordable living for those in need.
Members	5 members
Joining	Residents of the Town are appointed by the Board of Selectmen
Contact/Head:	Kate Careb (Chair) (860) 599-2600
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/housing-authority
Website:	https://stoningtonhousingauthority.org/

14. Inland Wetlands & Water Courses Commission

Status	Active
Description	Upholds and enforces the regulations set by the Commissioner of the Environmental Protection of the State of Connecticut. Established to protect the wetlands and water courses within the territorial limits of the Town by minimizing disturbance and pollution, preventing loss of aquatic organisms, wildlife and vegetation, prevent damage from erosion, turbidity or siltation, and deterring and inhibiting the anger of flooding. The Commission helps provide a balance between economic growth and protecting the environment.
Members	7 members and 2 alternates
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a 3-year term. Member cannot serve concurrently on the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Contact/Head:	Lee Reichart
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/inland-wetlands-water-courses-commission

15. K-12 School Building Committee

Status	Active
Description	Evaluates and makes recommendations of the improvements needed for the public-school buildings; Deans Mill School, West Broad Street, and West Vines Street School.
Members	10 members including a Chair and 3 alternatives as well has a representative of the Board of Education and a representative of the Board of Selectmen.
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectmen
Contact/Head:	Robert Marsegia (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/k-12-school-building-committee

16. Mystic Harbor Management Commission

Status	Active
Description	Adopted and outlines the harbor management plan for the Mystic Harbor. Conducts an annual review of the plan to provide updated information and policies. The commission works to assist the harbor master, prepares an operating budget, coordinates public and private agencies, commissions and organizations that have interest in the use of the harbor, conducts studies on the conditions and operation of the harbor, and reviews and makes recommendations regarding land and water use.
Members	5 members and 2 alternatives
Joining	Must be voters and residents of Stonington and are appointed by the Board of Selectman, Term is 2 years and one alternate will serve for one year
Contact/Head:	David Carreau (Chair) (860) 235-3465 Masons Island Harbor Master
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/mystic-harbor-management-commission

17. Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee

Status	Active
Description	Plans the construction and improvement of the Mystic Boathouse Park and the surrounding facilities. The Committee is tasked with evaluating and planning improvements at the property; clearing, remediating and/or demolishing structures at the subject property; and overseeing the construction of parking, sidewalks and/or other site improvements necessary for the creation of a public park. The Committee also collects and coordinates funding for the project through private donations and grant applications.
Members	9 members and 4 alternates
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectmen for 3-year terms At least one member within the committee must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Member of the Town Board of Finance • A Member of the Board of Education • A Member of the Recreation Commission • A licensed attorney • Experienced in real estate • Live in Mystic Village • Live in Stonington • Live in Pawcatuck One member may satisfy more than one of these requirements.
Contact/Head:	Nick Kepple (Chairmen and Attorney Member)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/mystic-river-boathouse-park-implementation-committee

18. Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission

Status	Active
Description	Manages the operation and use of the Pawcatuck River Harbor including the creation and implementation of a harbor management plan. The Commission assists the harbor master, prepares and operating budget, coordinates all public and private agencies, commissions and organizations interested in the use of the harbor, conducts studies on the conditions and operations of land next to the river and reviews and makes recommendations on land and water use.
Members	5 members and 2 alternates
Joining	Must be residents of the Town of Stonington and are appointed by the Board of Selectmen for 4-year terms
Contact/Head:	Tim O'Brien (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/mystic-river-boathouse-park-implementation-committee

19. Plan of Conservation & Development Implementation Commission

Status	Active
Description	Supports and over sees the implementation of tasks from the POCD which allows for the committee to add or edit any ask over the ten-year life of the document starting in 2015.
Members	9 members including a Chair and Vice-Chair
Joining	Resident members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen
Contact/Head:	Danielle Chesebrough (860) 535-5050
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/plan-of-conservation-development-implementation-committee

20. Planning and Zoning Commission

Status	Active
Description	Reviews plans and permits for building in the Town. Holds public hearings for new developments.
Members	5 Members and 3 Alternates
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectman
Contact/Head:	David Rathbun (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/planning-zoning-commission

21. Board of Police Commissioners

Status	Active
Description	Supervises the Police Department and its connections and support of the Town of Stonington. Regulates the penalties and policies for the suspension and removal from office of any officer or member of the Police Department. Appoints, promotes, and removes officers and members of the Police Department.
Members	5 Commissioners including 1 Chair and 1 Clerk
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectman for terms not exceeding 5 years
Contact/Head:	Robert O'Shaughnessy (Chairman)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/police-commissioners-board-of

22. Public Communications Ad Hoc Committee

Status	Active
Description	Studies and explores different communications mediums in order to provide accurate and unbiased information to and obtain information from the citizens of the Town of Stonington regarding Town issues and will make recommendations until October 31, 2021.
Members	5 members and 2 alternates
Joining	Residents of the Town are selected by the Board of the Selectmen.
Contact/Head:	Bruce Flax
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/public-communications-ad-hoc-committee

23. Recreation Commission

Status	Active
Description	Helps to provide recreational opportunities and programs for local residence. Plans, supervises, and coordinates seasonal and year-round recreational and athletic programs and the use of town facilities for these programs. Programs have included camping, clinics, leagues, open runs, trips, and fitness programs.
Members	8 members including a Chair
Joining	Chair and Vice Chair are elected, all members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen
Contact/Head:	C. Michael Crowley (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/recreation-commission

24. Resource Recovery Authority

Status	Active
Description	Supervises and regulates the removal, transportation, storage, and disposal of solid wastes as it impacts public health, safety, and welfare.
Members	This Authority is staffed by the Board of Selectmen
Joining	Must be elected as a selectman
Contact/Head	Danielle Chesebrough (Chair) (860) 535-5050
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/resource-recovery-authority

25. Retirement Board

Status	Active
Description	The Board shall be the Plan Administrator and shall have the authority to make all determinations necessary or desirable in administering the Town of Stonington Retirement Plan, Defined Contribution Plan and the 457(b) Plan.
Members	5 members
Joining	The Board shall consist of at least five (5) persons who are appointed by the Board of Selectmen of the Town; two of which are nominated by the Board of Education and one of which is nominated by the Board of Finance. All members shall be appointed for a five-year term
Address	Stonington Police Station meeting room, 173 So. Broad St., Pawcatuck
Contact/Head:	Patti Burmahl (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/retirement-board

26. Selectmen's Office

Status	Active
Description	The Office of the First Selectman is located on the first floor of the Town Hall. The website contains many useful links to local projects, boards and commission information, applications, and policies and acts such as the freedom of Information Act.
Members	Danielle Chesebrough
Joining	Elected
Contact/Head	Danielle Chesebrough (860) 535-5050
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/selectmens-office
Blog:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/node/2221/news
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Stonington-CT-733170630115878/
Instagram:	https://www.instagram.com/townofstonington/?hl=en

27. Shellfish Commission

Status	Active
Description	Regulates clam, oyster, scallops, and other shellfish harvesting in the Town. The Commission strives to improve access to shellfish resources, sustain and improve shellfish resources, enhance water quality to increase areas along the coastal waters for shellfish harvesting, and enhance a traditional, seafaring economic livelihood by promoting sustainability.
Members	7 members including a Chair and 2 alternates.
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectman
Contact/Head:	Donald Murphy http://www.stoningtonshellfishcommission.org/index.html
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/shellfish-commission-0
Website:	http://www.stoningtonshellfishcommission.org/

28. Stonington Beautification Committee

Status	Active
Description	Manages public monuments, foliage, and other aesthetic properties of the Town. The Committee creates a list of projects for improvements all over the Town of Stonington.
Members	9 members including a Chair, Vice Chair, and alternate.
Joining	Interested parties should email Julie Holland
Contact/Head:	Julie Holland stoningtonbeautification@stonington-ct.gov
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/stonington-beautification-committee

29. Stonington Facilities Committee

Status	Active
Description	Reviews and manages public facilities in the Town of Stonington. Starting with the name Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Use of Town Public Buildings, the committee has discussed and made recommendations on the Use of the West Broad Street School building, the Old Mystic School District building, and to look at the filing and storage of paper for the Town.
Members	7 members including a Chair, Vice Chair, 3 members, and two Alternate members
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectmen with two members serving for 3 years, two members serving for 2 years, and one member serving for 1 year. Alternates serve for 2 years.
Contact/Head:	Paul Sartor
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/stonington-facilities-committee

30. Stonington Harbor Management Commission

Status	Active
Description	Manages the Stonington Harbor including mooring, harbor projects, and other uses of the harbor. Proposes an annual budget and submits monthly reports. Maintains and improves the harbor for the public.
Members	10 members including 5 Commission Members, 4 members and 1 Chair
Joining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Members appointed by the Board of selectmen • 5 members electors of the Town and are not electors of the Borough of Stonington
Contact/Head:	Jay Spalding (Chair) Eric Donch (Harbor Master) (860) 303-5046
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/stonington-harbor-management-commission

31. Stonington Middle School Roof Replacement Building Committee

Status	Active
Description	Created last year to manage and oversee the grant application and roof replacement project for the Stonington Middle School.
Members	4 members from the Board of Education
Joining	The members of this committee are of the Board of Education and the Superintendent
Contact/Head:	Faruk Rajab: frajab@stoningtonschools.org Craig Esposito: cesposito@stoningtonschools.org Alisa Morrison: AMorrison@stoningtonschools.org Van Riley: vriley@stoningtonschools.org
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/stonington-middle-school-roof-replacement-building-committee-0

32. Stormwater Task Force

Status	Active
Description	Evaluates and advises on the impacts of stormwater drainage and oversees water quality issues, public education for stormwater runoff, and regulations. The strategies used for this Task Force were developed in the Plan of Conservation and Development. The Task Force is focused on reducing contamination and illicit discharges. They use strategies such as public education and outreach, construction of run-off control, and pollution prevention.
Members	5 members and the Town Engineer and Director of Public Works
Joining	Interested parties should contact the Engineering Department (860) 535-5055
Contact/Head:	Barbara McKrell (Director of Public Works) (860) 535-5055
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/stormwater-task-force

33. Water Pollution Control Authority

Status	Active
Description	Manages three sanitary sewer stations for Old Mystic, Mystic, Pawcatuck, and the Stonington Borough. Outlines rules and guidelines for the use and operation of the sanitary sewer stations and storm drains.
Members	5 members
Joining	Appointed by Board of Selectman for 5-year terms
Contact/Head:	Richard Cody (Chair) (860) 535-5065 Douglas Nettleton https://www.stonington-ct.gov/user/1673/contact
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/water-pollution-control-authority

34. Waterfront Commission

Status	Active
Description	Provides recommendations to the Town of Stonington concerning the waterfront, tidal waves, and pier facilities. These facilities include Donahue Park, local docks, and South Pier.
Members	7 members including a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary
Joining	All seven members are electors of the Town and serve without pay.
Contact/Head:	Sandy Grimes (Chair)
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/waterfront-commission

35. Zoning Board of Appeals

Status	Active
Description	Responsible for appeals of the Zoning Enforcement Officers' decisions, variance applications and local approvals for motor vehicle facilities.
Joining	Appointed by the Board of Selectman for three-year terms with a limit of two terms per regular and alternate positions.
Meetings	2nd Tuesday of each month
Contact/Head:	James Kading (Chairman) Candace Palmer (Staff Liaison) (860) 535-5095
Board Link:	https://www.stonington-ct.gov/zoning-board-of-appeals