

TOWN OF STONINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
July 24, 2023

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Stonington was called to order at 7:01 p.m. on July 24, 2023 at the Stonington High School, by First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough. Also, in attendance was Selectwoman Deborah Downie. Selectwoman June Strunk arrived late as she had to attend another meeting. Town Attorney Jeffrey Londregan was also present.

First Selectman Chesebrough asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked for nominations for Moderator. Selectwoman Downie nominated Eric Janney and being properly seconded by Lynn Young, Mr. Janney was unanimously elected Moderator of the meeting. Town Clerk, Sally Duplice served as Clerk.

The Moderator described how the Town Meeting will proceed. Everyone must check in, show identification and be either an elector or a citizen qualified to vote in Town Meetings in order to receive a paper ballot. For the four (4) items on the agenda for which a vote is being taken, the voting will occur immediately following the discussion of all four (4) items being considered and will be tallied and the results announced.

Without objection, the Moderator dispensed with the reading of the Call of the Meeting recorded immediately preceding this page. The Moderator, without objection, dispensed with the reading of the full text of the **FIRST** item on the Call of the Meeting (see full text of Resolution 1 at end of minutes). The First item on the Agenda is a Resolution **To consider and vote on a resolution to adopt an Ordinance of the Town of Stonington, Connecticut, providing for the waiving of outstanding tax balances in amounts less than two (\$2.00) dollars.**

For the purpose of discussion, the Moderator asked for a motion to approve the Resolution. Motion to approve was made by Selectwoman Downie and seconded by Patti Burmahl. The motion passed unanimously.

Before opening the floor to discussion, the Moderator called on Tax Collector, Cindy Curioso who gave an explanation of this resolution. The Moderator then opened the floor to discussion. Hearing none, the Moderator reminded the audience that the vote will be taken after all resolutions are heard. Participants must be checked in and verified to receive a paper ballot.

Without objection, the Moderator dispensed with the reading of the full text of the **SECOND** item on the Call of the Meeting (see full text of Resolution 2 at end of minutes). The Second item on the Agenda is a Resolution **To consider and vote on a resolution to revise and modify an Ordinance of the Town of Stonington, Connecticut, amending the hours that Town recreational areas shall be open to the public, by changing closing time from sunset to 10:00PM.**

For the purpose of discussion, the Moderator asked for a motion to approve the Resolution. Motion to approve was made by Selectwoman Downie and seconded by Patti Burmahl. The motion passed unanimously.

Before opening the floor to discussion, the Moderator called on Chief of Police, Jay Delgrosso regarding this resolution, which he briefly discussed. The Moderator then opened the floor to discussion. Stephen Bessette came forth to discuss amending Section 3 of this resolution further by changing the opening time from sunrise to 6:00AM. The Moderator asked for a motion for this

amendment. Stephen made a motion to amend Section 3 to change the hours that Town recreational areas shall be open to the public to be 6:00AM to 10:00PM daily, which motion was properly seconded by Matthew Beaudoin. The Moderator asked for a show of hands by raising their paper ballots which they received at check-in for all who were in favor and then all who were opposed. The "ayes" outnumbered the "nays". Discussion continued with Virginia Cottrell and David Brown posed a question to Chief Delgrosso.

Without objection, the Moderator dispensed with the reading of the full text of the **THIRD** item on the Call of the Meeting (see full text of Resolution 3 at end of minutes). The Third item on the Agenda is a Resolution **To consider and vote on a resolution to revise and modify an Ordinance of the Town of Stonington, Connecticut, to provide for the appointment of alternate members to the Town's Cultural District Commission.**

For the purpose of discussion, the Moderator asked for a motion to approve the Resolution. Motion to approve was made by Selectwoman Downie and seconded by Lynn Young. The motion passed unanimously.

Before opening the floor to discussion, the Moderator first called on First Selectman Chesebrough who explained that it was unclear how many alternates there could be on this Commission when it was adopted. The Moderator then opened the floor to discussion. Hearing none, the Moderator reminded the audience that the vote will be taken after all resolutions are heard. Participants must be checked in and verified to receive a paper ballot.

Without objection, the Moderator dispensed with the reading of the full text of the **FOURTH** item on the Call of the Meeting (see full text of Resolution 4 at end of minutes). The Fourth item on the Agenda is a Resolution **To consider and vote on a resolution to revise and modify an Ordinance of the Town of Stonington, Connecticut, providing for an update to the Parking and Traffic Regulation to include Town right-of-ways, to authorize the Board of Police Commissioners to implement policies for electronic aided paid parking, to authorize the Town of Stonington to receive and utilize funds from the electronic aided paid parking to maintain the electronic aided paid parking and to support bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancement projects and to increase the fines for violation of the ordinance from Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) to Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).**

For the purpose of discussion, the Moderator asked for a motion to approve the Resolution. Motion to approve was made by Selectwoman Downie and seconded by Chris Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

Before opening the floor to discussion, the Moderator called on Chief of Police Delgrosso regarding this Resolution, who discussed, among other things, parking and safety issues in right of ways, posted "No Parking" zones and assuring that if the Board of Police Commissioners did move to install paid parking, it would allow for resident input and a vote at a public meeting. The Moderator then opened the floor to discussion. Speaking ensued from Martin Rutchik, Matthew Beaudoin, Tom Fiore, Grace Vandal, Glenn Frishman, Bob O'Shaughnessy, Bryan Bentz, Stephen Bessette, Patti Burmahl, Carlene Donnarummo, Chris Regan, Virginia Cottrell, Selectman Chesebrough, Chief Delgrosso, Shaun Mastroianni and Dan Benfield. Discussion ranged from the need for parking garages, amending the ordinance to strike out the words "bicycle and pedestrian safety" and "other" from Section 4, putting the revenue from the electronic aided paid parking into the general fund rather than a new fund, to deleting Sections entirely. Upon motions made and properly seconded, residents made three unsuccessful attempts to amend the proposed ordinance. The first sought to redirect the funds to the

Town's general fund, a second attempt to remove the creation of the special fund from the ordinance and the third attempted to remove the section of the ordinance dealing with paid parking.

With no further discussion on the floor, the Moderator recessed the meeting at 8:10 p.m. to allow for a vote on the four (4) Resolutions moved and seconded by this Town Meeting. Electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings came forward to cast their vote by paper ballot for the four (4) items on the Call of the Meeting and then returned to their seats. When all the ballots were collected, Town Clerk Duplice and Executive Administrative Assistant, Stacey Haskell tallied the votes.

At 8:40 p.m. the meeting Moderator reconvened the meeting to announce the results of the voting for each resolution as follows:

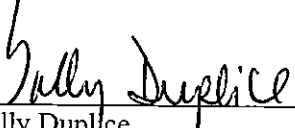
First Resolution:	Yes – 116	No – 6
Second Resolution:	Yes – 106	No – 16
Third Resolution:	Yes – 112	No – 7
Fourth Resolution:	Yes – 61	No – 61

The Moderator declared the First, Second and Third Resolutions as passed and the Fourth Resolution as failed.

There being no further business on the Call, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Selectwoman Downie and seconded by Patti Burmahl. The motion passed unanimously and the Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

/s/ Sally Duplice
Clerk of the meeting

Received for record this 27th day of July, 2023.


Sally Duplice
Town Clerk

RESOLUTION 1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT, PROVIDING FOR THE WAIVING OF OUTSTANDING TAX BALANCES IN AMOUNTS LESS THAN TWO (\$2.00) DOLLARS.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF STONINGTON IN LAWFUL TOWN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED THAT THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE BE ESTABLISHED BY THE TOWN OF STONINGTON:

Section 1. Waiving of outstanding Tax balances Less Than Two (\$2.00) Dollars.

The Town of Stonington, by and through the discretion of the tax collector, may waive any outstanding taxes owed to the Town provided that said outstanding balance is less than Two (\$2.00) Dollars.

Section 2. Severability

If any provision, of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of any other part of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications; and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance and the various applications thereof are declared to be severable.

Section 3. Conflict With Existing Ordinances

That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

This ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper having a circulation within the Town.

Adopted:

Effective:

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING COMMUNITY RECREATION HOURS

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING COMMUNITY RECREATION HOURS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, WHEREAS, the Town of Stonington ('the Town') has established public parks and recreational areas for the use and enjoyment of the public; and

WHEREAS, Section 7-148(c)(7)(H)(xii) of the Connecticut General Statutes provides the authority for the Town to regulate the use of public places and grounds for public and private purposes.

NOW THEREFORE: BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF STONINGTON IN LAWFUL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED THAT THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE BE ESTABLISHED BY THE TOWN OF STONINGTON:

1. Title - An ordinance to establish the hours that recreational areas owned by the Town of Stonington shall be open to the public.

2. Definition - As used in this Ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated.

Recreational Property – means property owned by the Town and which is under the supervision and control of the Recreational Department or Board of Selectmen and used in connection with recreational programs, including athletic facilities, parks, playgrounds, trails and other areas where people may assemble for recreational purposes.

3. The hours that recreational areas, owned by the Town of Stonington, shall be open to the public will be from sunrise to 10:00 p.m. daily. No person shall enter closed recreational areas owned by the Town of Stonington. Exceptions may be granted to extend the hours that public parks and recreational areas are open, so long as they have been approved following the Town of Stonington's existing policies and procedures.

4. Penalty - Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be subjected to a warning, and/or a forty-nine dollar fine (\$49.00) for each separate offense or violation. Any and all remedies, which the Town has in enforcing this Ordinance, at law or in equity, shall be cumulative and two or more or all of such remedies may be exercised at the same time.

5. Effective Date - This Ordinance shall become effective following approval by Town Meeting and fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper having a substantial circulation within the Town of Stonington.

Adopted: June 27, 2022

Effective: July 19, 2022

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURAL DISTRICTS.

WHEREAS, the Town of Stonington, including the Borough of Stonington (hereinafter "Town") is fortunate to have many cultural facilities, activities and assets within its limits; both for profit and nonprofit; and

WHEREAS, the areas of the Town where said cultural facilities, activities and assets are located are walkable, compact areas that are easy for visitors to recognize; and

WHEREAS, the areas of the Town where said cultural facilities, activities and assets are located are places where community members congregate, and visitors may enjoy said facilities, activities and assets; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut Public Act 19-143 authorizes the Town to establish a municipal Cultural District; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to establish two Cultural Districts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF STONINGTON IN LAWFUL TOWN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. That the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Stonington be amended by adding a new ordinance to read as follows:

- A. There is hereby established within the Town of Stonington, two Cultural Districts which shall have the following physical boundaries:

1. Stonington Village Cultural District - Beginning and including 22 Bayview Avenue, where the Velvet Mill is located, going west to the intersection of Bayview Avenue and Elm Street, turn left, south on Elm Street, west on Cutler Street, to the intersection of Water Street, turn left, south over the viaduct on Water Street, then continue south through the business area to the Stonington Point, including the historic lighthouse and museum. When leaving the point go north until able to turn right at Cannon Square, then left onto Main Street. At High Street turn left (west) to 1 High Street, the location of the historic Town Dock (which is included) then return on High Street to the intersection with Water Street and to the north with the viaduct again. It is assumed that properties located on both sides of streets are included in the district. One unusual feature of this district is the elevated pedestrian walkway over the railroad tracks which is

accessed at the intersection of Elm Street and Cutler Street. On the south side of the tracks, Elm Street continues to the intersection of Main Street.

2. Mystic Bridge Cultural District - Beginning at the Mystic Seaport, located at 75 Greenmanville Ave on Route 27, going south, then turn right onto Holmes Street, then at the intersection of Route 1, turn east (left) going through the business area and around the round-about continue on Route 1 to the Mystic train station. At the intersection of Route 27 go north (left) to finish the triangle shaped district, ending back at the Mystic Seaport. It is assumed that properties located on both sides of streets are included in the district.

B. The Town, through its Cultural District Commission, shall prepare a map, which shall show the boundaries of each of the Cultural Districts set forth in Subsection A of this ordinance, and shall identify and inventory all cultural assets located within said Districts, which assets shall include but not be limited too, all cultural facilities, artistic spaces, creative businesses, historic sites and locations of cultural activities, both indoor and outdoor.

C. The Town hereby establishes a Cultural District Commission to satisfy the following requirements:

1. It shall be made up of a minimum of seven (7) members, at least six (6) of whom must represent the Town's arts and culture community, and at least four (4) of whom must live or work within the Cultural Districts described in Subsection A of this ordinance. At its inception, two (2) members shall be appointed for one-year terms, two (2) members shall be appointed for two-year terms, and three (3) members shall be appointed for three (3) year terms. Thereafter, all regular members shall be appointed for three (3) year terms. There shall also be five (5) alternate members of the Commission. Alternate members may be seated for absent regular members as deemed necessary for fulfilling the mission of said Commission. Terms for alternates will be two (2) years.

2. As reasonably possible, the members should include a representative of the following categories: a member from a local cultural or arts council; a member from an historical society, museum or ethnic heritage organization; an artist who lives or works in one of the two Districts; a local business owner; and a for-profit creative business.

3. Provide annual reports to the Board of Selectmen and the Borough Warden and Burgesses.

RESOLUTION 3 (continued)

D. Powers. The Cultural District Commission shall carry out the provisions of Public Act 19-143 in promoting the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the marketing of arts and culture attractions, the encouragement of artists and artistic and cultural enterprises and the promotion of tourism. Additionally, the Commission shall be authorized to consult and collaborate with the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and regional service organizations for any assistance, and shall be authorized to apply for or solicit and accept any grant contribution, gift, bequest, devise or other donation from any source, provided that all requirements of the Town Charter are followed for purposes of accepting and appropriating said funding.

E. Duties and Procedures. In addition to the Powers set forth in Subsection D herein, Cultural District Commission shall develop goals and objectives for the Districts, management plan, a cultural assets maps and inventory, a marketing plan in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and a list of goals and success measures for the Districts.

Section 2.

A. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

B. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of any other part of this ordinance that can be given affect without the invalid provisions or applications; and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance and the various applications thereof are declared to be severable.

B. This ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after Notice of its passage is duly published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Stonington.

Adopted: February 27, 2023

Effective: March 18, 2023

PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

ORDINANCE RE: TRAFFIC AND REGULATING THE USE OF PUBLIC STREETS AND
MUNICIPALLY OWNED PARKING LOTS IN THE TOWN OF STONINGTON.

An ordinance relating to traffic and regulating the use of public streets, right of ways and municipally owned parking lots in the Town of Stonington, prescribing regulations relative to the parking of vehicles upon such streets, right of ways and lots for the purpose of enhancing the free flow of traffic by providing regulations regarding the parking of vehicles on public streets, town right of ways and municipally controlled lots. To encourage the utilization of commuter parking lots by restricting their usage to that of commuters and to keep the town right of ways clear of obstructions. Furthermore, to authorize the use of electronic aided paid parking; to authorize the Town of Stonington to receive funds from said paid parking and to establish regulations relating to electronic aided paid parking. To authorize the Town of Stonington to direct a portion of the parking fees to be placed into an account for the sole purpose to support bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancement projects. As the local traffic authority, future changes to traffic, parking or related project will still require approval by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Section 1. Definitions.

Whenever, in this ordinance, the following terms are used, they shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them in this section:

- (a) VEHICLE: Any device suitable for the conveyance, drawing or other transportation of persons or property, whether operated on wheels, runners, cushion of air between it and the surface or by any other means, except those propelled or drawn by human power or those used exclusively upon tracks.
- (b) PARKED VEHICLE: Any vehicle in a stationary position within the limits of a public highway or a municipally owned parking lot.
- (c) HIGHWAY: Includes any state or public highway, road, street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway or place, under the control of the state or town, dedicated, appropriated or open to public travel or other use.
- (d) MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT: An area under the control of the Town of Stonington which is dedicated to and posted for the parking of motor vehicles.
- (e) TOWN RIGHT OF WAY: The Town right-of-way is the area of property between opposing street lines that is owned and maintained by the Town, and also includes right-of-way as shown on a map of an approved subdivision, whether the streets within such subdivision have yet been accepted by the Town.

Section 2. Liability of Owner.

RESOLUTION 4 (continued)

Whenever there occurs a violation of this ordinance, proof of registration number of any motor vehicle involved shall be prima facie evidence, in any criminal action or in any action based on an infraction or parking ticket, that the owner was the operator of said motor vehicle except, in the case of a leased or rented motor vehicle, such proof shall be prima facie evidence that the lessee was the operator thereof.

Section 3. General Parking Restrictions.

A. No vehicle shall be parking in the following manner on a highway or a municipal parking lot in the Town of Stonington:

1. Upon a Highway:

- a. Within ten feet (10') of any fire hydrant.
- b. Parallel and adjacent to a vehicle already parked in a particular area.
- c. Upon any public sidewalk except when in the process of crossing said sidewalk or when necessary to perform sidewalk construction, maintenance or snow removal or when other emergency circumstances require.
- d. In such manner as to obstruct or interfere with the ingress or egress from a private driveway or alleyway, except with the permission of the owner of such private driveway or alleyway.
- e. Upon the traveled portion of any highway except upon the right-hand side of such highway in the direction in which such vehicle is headed.
- f. With the right-hand wheels further than twelve inches (12") from the curb or edge of the highway.
- g. Within twenty-five feet (25') of any intersection marked crosswalk or stop sign.
- h. At a bus stop, taxi-stand, loading and unloading zones except vehicles performing the intended purpose in those designated areas.
- i. In such manner as to obstruct the flow of traffic.
- j. In violation of any sign posted by the Legal Traffic Authority of the Town of Stonington, the Borough of Stonington or the State of Connecticut which prohibits, limits or regulates the parking of vehicles within the Town of Stonington.
- k. Parking on a Town of Stonington right-of-way does not fall within this provision unless the area is marked as outlined in subsection j.

2. In a Municipal Parking Lot:

RESOLUTION 4 (continued)

- a. In violation of any restrictions posted by order of the Board of Selectmen or the Legal Traffic Authority of the Town of Stonington.
- b. In such manner as to obstruct or interfere with the ingress or egress from the lot.
- c. In such a manner as to obstruct or prevent the movement of other parked vehicles within the lot.

Section 4. Paid Parking

Whenever because of traffic conditions or otherwise the parking of vehicles on any public street or part thereof cannot in the opinion of the Board of Police Commissioners as the traffic authority of the Town of Stonington be adequately and efficiently regulated and controlled, the Commission may authorize the installation of electronic aided paid parking, fix the parking fee and the legal parking time in such zone, and also fix the hours during which the use of electronic aided paid parking shall be required, and in accordance therewith cause lines or markers to be placed upon the curb or pavement, or both, of the street in such zone designating the paid parking space for which said electronic or computer aided paid parking is to be used. The Town of Stonington shall be authorized to receive funds from the collection of revenues and fines from the electronic aided paid parking in order to maintain and replace electronic aided paid parking and to support bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancement projects and for any other purpose allowable by law. The Board of Police Commissioners shall be further authorized to establish additional regulations regarding paid parking as it deems necessary.

When any vehicle remains parked in any such paid parking space beyond the parking time limit fixed for such paid parking space it shall be deemed a violation of this article and subject to the remedies outlined in Section 5.

Section 5. Enforcement & Penalties.

A. Enforcement - Any patrol officer, or other designated representative of the Chief of Police may attach to any vehicle found in violation of any of the regulations outlined in the foregoing sections, a notice to the owner or operator that such vehicle has been parked in violation of law, which such notice shall indicate the nature of the violation and instruct such owner or operator to pay the penalty for such violation, by appearing in person at Stonington Police Headquarters or by mailing such notice, with the amount of the penalty, to the Stonington Department of Police Services.

B. Penalties - The penalty for any violation of Section 3 or 4 shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Section 6. Collection & Disbursement of Funds Received as Penalties.

The Chief of Police is authorized and empowered to accept payment of the penalties provided in this ordinance from any person found to be in violation of this ordinance. The Chief of Police is empowered to take such action as is required to cause such payment and shall keep a record of all such penalties paid to him for such violations and the registration information of all such vehicles found to be in violation and present the same to the Board of Selectmen at the first meeting of said

RESOLUTION 4 (continued)

Board in each month thereafter. Such report shall be kept for record in the Town Hall in Stonington.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town of Stonington.

Adopted December 17, 1984

Effective January 10, 1985

Amended Section 4 May 20, 1985

Effective June 10, 1985

Amended Section 4 November 28, 1994