

July 9, 2014

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Station at 6:15 p.m. Present were First Selectman Edward Haberek and Selectman George Crouse. Also present were members of the public and press.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Haberek called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

(2) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Haberek and seconded by Mr. Crouse to approve the July 9, 2014 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes with the correction of the spelling of Mrs. McAnanly's name.

(3) Comments from the Public

- Mr. Aaron Green stated that he hasn't seen a date for the town meeting and asked if it would be on the website.
- Mr. Charles Ballato stated that the pond on West Vine Street needed to be cleaned out and asked if someone from the Public Works Department could come out and take a look at it.
- Mrs. Nancy D'Estang stated that development in Stonington has been a concern to the residents. Mrs. D'Estang read the following:
"Recent developments demand attention since there is a decline in the quality of life in Mystic: Toll Brothers, West Marine, Red36 Bar. In each of these, there is a non-compliance with regulations, with the stipulations, and with the 2004 and 2014 POCDs. Each is egregious, is inappropriate, each lowers residential property values, each has been accommodated by "relaxing" of the regs. and each is extractive of neighborhoods or natural resources. Tonight I shall address only the Red36 Bar, which defies all that Town learned by problems with Trader Jack's, with mixed use, with non-compliance, and with noise traveling over water. Red has 150 seats whereas 100 were approved; it has a "provisional CO"; the stipulated tree plan—are all in violation. Negatively impacted to a severe degree are Washington and Willow Streets residents, residents of Seaport marine condos and boats, Steamboat Wharf and the Power House residents. It is also known there will be an incalculable hit to the tax base as permanent residents with professional jobs move out, people with temporary low paying service jobs, and people from away, who have no stake in the town, take over. In the short time Red has been open, regular incidents of 'harsh culture' and decay of civility have affected the neighborhood: excessive noise, inappropriate urinating, defecating, vomiting and fornicating. Does this make you think of Bank Street? Drugs? It now seems comical that Town used to be concerned about signage and "OPEN" flags—the era of Mr. Granato; now it is the crushing of society's structure.
- Mr. Haberek stated that he would forward Mrs. D'Estang's concerns on to the Planning & Zoning Commission and also to the Police Chief.
- First Selectman Nick Mullane gave the Selectmen Background to the Federal Acknowledgement Process and the Petition of Recognition of the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Tribe, Proposed Changes to the Federal Tribal Acknowledgement Regulations:

Concerns for Connecticut from the Office of the Attorney General, a letter from Governor Malloy to President Obama expressing his opposition to certain revisions to tribal recognition rules being considered by the BIA, a letter to Assistant Secretary Washburn signed by Senator Blumenthal, Congresswoman DeLauro, Congressman Courtney, Congresswoman Esty, Senator Murphy, Congressman Larson and Congressman Himes urging him to take no further action on the Discussion Draft Proposed Changes to Part 83 of Chapter 1 of Title 25 of the Federal Regulations – Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe (“Discussion Draft”) as written. Mr. Mullane stated that he would like the Selectmen to consider signing the letter to Acting Director Briane Deese from the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs regarding a Request for Extension of Comment Period. Mr. Mullane stated that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is not listening to any comments and that President Obama supports off-reservation development. Mr. Mullane also stated that if this thing goes through they (Native Americans) could stretch land claims into Stonington. Mr. Haberek stated that the Board would digest all of the information provided by Mr. Mullane and vote on it at the next meeting.

(4) Interviews

Planning & Zoning Commission

The Selectmen interviewed Shaun Savoie for the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Selectmen interviewed Ronald Voelkel for the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Stephen Bessette expressing his interest in serving on the Charter Revision Committee.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. requesting the Selectman to endorse and become engaged in the long-term planning of how the town will cope with climate change and form a special commission to begin to deal with climate change issues.

(6) Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations

Recreation Commission

- The Selectmen acknowledged Paula Solar’s resignation from the Recreation Commission.
- A motion was made by Mr. Haberek and seconded by Mr. Crouse to appoint Jennifer Norcross to the Recreation Commission.
- A motion was made by Mr. Haberek and seconded by Mr. Crouse to reappoint Larry Theadore to the Recreation Commission.

Architectural Design Review Board

A motion was made by Mr. Haberek and seconded by Mr. Crouse to reappoint Christopher Thorp to the Architectural Design Review Board.

(7) New Business

None

(8) Comments from the Public

None

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

None

(10)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristine Bell".

Kristine Bell

Recording Secretary