

August 12, 2009

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Station at 7:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Edward Haberek, Selectman William Brown and Selectman Peter Balestracci. Also present were members of the public and press.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Haberek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

(2) Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Balestracci and voted unanimously to accept the July 22, 2009 minutes as distributed.

(3) Comments from the Public

- Mr. Vincent Faulise asked about the status of the Stonington Borough Post Office.
- Ms. Gail Shea stated that she feels that the Planning & Zoning Commission interviews should focus not on philosophy but on planning issues. She feels what is critical for the town is the zoning part of it and seeing that the regulations are followed.
- Mr. Faulise asked how many more applicants there are to be interviewed and when will the appointment be made.

(4) Correspondence

- a. Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Marilyn Citron regarding her concern with Don Vail being appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- b. Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Mary Lou Henkin regarding her concern with Don Vail being appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- c. Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Mr. Capozzoli stating that he is in favor of Rob Marseglia being appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- d. Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from John Gullotti stating that he is in favor of Rob Marseglia being appointed to the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- e. Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Bob Mercer regarding his interest in being considered a permanent member of the Planning & Zoning Commission from his current alternate position.
- f. Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Stephen Bessette regarding his interest in being considered a candidate for appointment to the Stonington Police Commission.
- g. Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Paul Linehan regarding his interest in being considered a candidate for appointment to the Stonington Police Commission.
- h. Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from The POCD Implementation Committee requesting the assistance of the Board of Selectmen in encouraging Boards and Commissions to provide a progress report and timetables to implement various tasks. Mr. Haberek also provided a copy of the response that he sent to the Members of the POCD Implementation Committee for the Selectmen's review before sending a letter to each of the Board and Commission members that have a responsibility in the POCD Plan. Mr. Haberek also stated that he is going to schedule a POCD Implementation Committee and add them as an agenda item for them to come before the BOS to discuss their issues. Mr. Brown suggested that the meeting take place after the new Board of Selectmen are seated in November so that they are up to speed.

- i. Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from George Sylvestre, Director of Administrative Services regarding the South Pier Project.

(5) Appointments/Reappointments

Conservation Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to reappoint Sheila Lyons to the Conservation Commission, as requested in her letter to Mr. Haberek.

Recreation Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Balestracci and voted unanimously to reappoint C. Michael Crowley to the Recreation Commission, as requested in his letter to the Board of Selectmen.

A motion was made by Mr. Balestracci, seconded by Mr. Brown and voted unanimously to reappoint Frank Prachniak to the Recreation Commission, as requested in his letter to the Board of Selectmen.

(6) Old Business

None

(7) Downtown Mystic Streetscape Improvements, Phase I Resolutions

Mr. William Haase spoke to the Selectmen about the Downtown Mystic Streetscape project and the Resolutions (Appendix "A") giving Mr. Haberek authority to sign contract documents. There was some discussion between Mr. Haase and the Selectmen. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Balestracci and voted unanimously to adopt the resolution regarding the contract with Urban Engineers, Inc. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Balestracci and voted unanimously to adopt the resolution regarding the contract with Milton C. Beebe & Sons, Inc.

(8) Projects Update

None

(9) Comments from the Public

- Ms. Fran O'Neil commented that the website hasn't been changed yet.
- Ms. O'Neil asked if there are any funds available for kids who can't afford school supplies.
- Ms. O'Neil stated that there are no street signs that say Pawcatuck.
- Ms. O'Neil asked if the bridge on Stillman Avenue has been inspected yet.
- Mrs. Tracy Swain asked about the status of the Edith K. Richmond alarm system and whether Kevin Burns volunteered his services to help out.
- Mrs. Swain asked when the Board is going to advertise for members of the Board of Ethics. She suggested that the Committee should be put into place before Mr. Brown and Mr. Balestracci's terms expire in November.
- Mrs. Swain stated that the residents who complained about the agenda not being posted properly attend BOS meetings.
- Mrs. Swain asked if the applicants to the PZC attend regular meetings and know what is going on.
- Mrs. Carol Goodman asked why Aquarion did not adequately repair Flanders Road from the work they did a couple of months ago.
- Ms. Gail Shea stated her concern that she did not hear that the candidates for the PZC are being asked if they are aware or know anything about FOI. She also stated her concern

that some of the business at the P&Z meetings is conducted behind the scenes. Ms. Shea further stated that the statutes say that information about meetings is to be made available to the public. Mrs. Shea stated she would like to see a healthy attitude on P&Z with how they conduct their business.

- Mr. Haberek stated that changing a culture is an evolution and he thinks the vision comes from the top and he will continue to advocate an open and transparent process and will definitely include in the next questions FOI.
- Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Haberek made a comment that there needs to be a culture change to Planning & Zoning. He asked Mr. Haberek to specifically state what he thinks needs to be changed.
- Mr. Haberek stated that one of things that they wanted to do in their new appointments was to change a culture because one of things is that people felt intimidated to come before the board and they felt that selections were made and in a much more different format.
- Mr. Haase spoke further about FOI and the possibility of scheduling a session with FOI and all land use commissioners to bring them up to speed on current FOI laws.
- Mrs. O'Neil inquired about the status of blighted buildings.
- Mrs. Shea stated a little creativity needs to be brought into play to carry out successfully what Mr. Haase suggested.
- Mr. John Prue asked what the criteria is for the appointments to the PZC.
- Mr. Faulise asked about the status of the Stillman Avenue building.
- Mrs. Swain asked if anyone knows how many vacant mills we have in town.
- Mr. Haase stated that he has copies of a plan of conservation and development that shows every single mill that could be redeveloped in the town.
- Mrs. Swain asked if the map shows what state the building is at.
- Mrs. Swain asked if we have a list of how many vacant commercial buildings we have in town.

(10)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary