

October 9, 2013

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Station 6:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Edward Haberek, Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Glee McAnanly. Also present were members of the public and press.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Haberek called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

(2) Comments from the Public

None

(3) Public Hearing – Discuss the Proposed Revised Peddlers Ordinance

- Mr. Rod Desmarais, President of the Downtown Mystic Merchants Association spoke in favor of the proposed revised peddler ordinance.
- Ms. Dana Laskey stated that she doesn't have a food business but vendors are a distraction. She stated that five food businesses have gone out of business since February.
- Mr. Mike Gillin stated that the food truck takes up a valuable parking spot.
- Ms. Cheryl Robdau, owner of the Mystic Drawbridge Ice cream, stated the trucks move their operation to best suit their business and that they create a certain amount of refuge which the business owners have to pay for the removal of.
- Tim Murray, owner of John's Café, stated that there is a hotdog vendor 50 feet away from his business.
- Nicole from Wide World of Bagels stated that she works 70 hour weeks.
- Leo Roach, owner of Harp and Hound, stated that having vendors is unfair. He also stated that you won't see them in January and February but you'll see the business owners.
- Attorney Thomas Londregan stated that he wants to draft the ordinance so that there are clear boundary lines. He also stated that he needs to define peddler better. Attorney Londregan also stated that Section 7 "existing business" still bothers him.
- Chief Darren Stewart stated that as long as the areas are clearly defined and peddlers need to be clearly defined. He stated that he doesn't want it to be left up to interpretation. Attorney Londregan stated that he and the Chief can look at a map and revise Section 7-2.
- Captain Desmond stated that the narrower we make it, the easier it will be to enforce.
- Mr. James Garbo who operates the Garbo Lobster truck stated that he understands the concerns but he pays all of his taxes and vendor fees and he doesn't think he takes anything away from Mystic. He stated that there are only two areas in Stonington where peddling is allowed and one is downtown Mystic.
- Mr. Ken Parker who operates Supreme Hotdog Cart stated he didn't find it to be a nuisance at all. He stated that all the public enjoy the hotdogs and if people wanted to buy hotdogs in a bar they wouldn't bring their kids. He stated that vendor trucks shouldn't be ruled out for tourists.
- Selectman George Crouse asked if this would affect Girlscout cookie sales.
- Chief Stewart stated that they fall under solicitor not vendor.

- Selectman McAnanly asked the Chief how many peddler's licenses he current has.
- Chief Stewart stated that he has 4 and 1 is pending.
- Mr. Haberek asked if a person is not selling but giving something away like hot dog bites is it peddling.
- Attorney Londregan stated that is marketing.
- Mr. Mathew DiFrancesco stated that he purchased a cart and is vending on private property at the German Club.
- ~~Attorney Londregan stated that one lot has one use and the cart needs to meet zoning regulations.~~

A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mrs. McAnanly and voted unanimously to send the proposed revised Ordinance to town meeting.

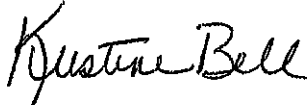
(4) Comments from the Public

None

(5)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary