

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 09, 2014  
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Chair Mel Olsson and Vice-Chair Frank Pucci  
Commissioners Harry Holt, Patrick Moukawsher and Peter Rotella  
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Jerry Desmond

**1) Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Olsson called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.  
The Commission welcomed Commissioner Peter Rotella.

**2) Remarks of Visitors**

Suzette Tibus

Mystic Aquarium Board of Trustees

Suzette Tibus presented a letter to the Commission (included for the record) on behalf of Sea Research Trustees and President Steve Coan commending the Department regarding their handling of a colleague's tragic accident that occurred in December.

Coastal Environmental Services

Constantine Macris - Director

Keith Vandal - Program Manager

In attendance regarding the auction of the former police boat. Requested the Commission consider donating the boat to a nonprofit instead of auctioning off. Stated Coastal Environmental Services would use the boat for educational purposes, including opportunities at Avery Point & Project Oceanology, internships for those pursuing maritime studies, marine response with the Aquarium, as well as police support if needed.

Commissioner Moukawsher asked the Commission if the date of the auction was already determined; if already scheduled, then a decision will need to be made tonight. In addition, Commissioner Moukawsher inquired as to the rights of the Commission regarding the disposition of public property; does Commission have the right to give away public property, and if so, is there a policy in place determining how this is done (lottery, application process, etc)?

Vice-Chair Pucci asked if the value of the boat was determined.

Captain Desmond stated that the Board of Selectmen voted to allow the Police Commission to dispose of vessel as preferred.

## **2) Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)**

### **Coastal Environmental Services (cont'd)**

Commissioner Moukawsher stated that Commission members will require information on the boat specifications and value prior to the next meeting.

Captain Desmond stated that he will provide a report.

Mr. Vandal stated that Coastal Environmental Services is charged with working with Stonington, however only receives approximately \$1,600 in funding from the Town, compared to the Town of Groton's donation of \$20K. Coastal Environmental Services will provide organizational information & plan for boat use to the Commission in the event donation to a nonprofit is considered.

### **Special Use Permit Application: Sea Research Foundation 3.0 acre gravel surface parking lot**

Chair Olsson stated Commission concerns regarding pedestrian lighting, and where busses will offload passengers.

- A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pucci to approve the presentation and drawings as presented, with the recommendation that there is a policy to unload busses at the Aquarium and not in the new parking area. In addition, the Chief has the authority to review and approve any signage in conjunction with Planning & Zoning. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

## **3) New Business**

## **4) Correspondence**

- a. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: Sea Research Foundation  
See Remarks of Visitors

**5) Traffic**

- a. Letter Re: Request from Stonington Borough Fire Department  
Tabled until next meeting; Chief Stewart will reach out to Chief Hoadley
- b. School Signage
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to add "School Ahead" signage and a 25 mph speed limit sign just west of the Mystic Middle School on Mistuxet Avenue. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.
  - A motion was made by Commission Moukawsher to grant the Chief the authority to reach out to the State regarding the following:
    - Add "School Ahead" signs in both directions on Route 1 prior to West Broad Street School
    - Add "School Ahead" signs in both directions on Route 2 prior to St. Michaels School
    - Add or reduce speed westbound on Route 2 prior to Stonington High School to reflect a 25 mph speed limit
    - Add "School Ahead" signs in both directions on Route 1 prior to Stonington High SchoolMotion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

**6) Approval of Minutes for the December 12, 2013 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Holt to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

**7) Old Business**

- a. E-Mail from Keith Brynes providing clarification on new local business; establishment will be restaurant only, not a night club. Chief will respond with letter to thank Planning & Zoning for clarification and note that the Police Commission had no comment.

**8) Report of the Chief of Police**

- a. Chief Stewart commended Officer Saunders & third shift squad for outstanding performance during a robbery at A&P Liquors. Chair Olsson requested Chief Stewart thank Officer Saunders on behalf of the Commission.
- b. Chief Stewart elected Law Enforcement Council President
- c. Chief will notify Commission of budget review dates as soon as possible
- d. Budget Report
- e. Monthly Report
- f. Yearly Report
- g. Alarm Report
- h. Pawcatuck Statistics
- i. Special Event Schedule
- j. Report of 2012 CT Crime Statistics
- k. Memo Re: Elks Officer of the Year Nomination
- l. CPCA Holiday Statistics Report

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pucci to approve the Report of the Chief. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

**9) Consent Agenda**

- a. Letter Re: Thank You – Donation to Animal Control
- b. Domestic Violence Survey
- c. Letter Re: Thank You – Bristol Police Department
- d. Letter Re: Thank You – Brighton Police Department
- e. Memo Re: Good Job – Alarm Call
- f. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Hersh
- g. E-Mail Re: Planning & Zoning Items
- h. Records Destruction Authorization
- i. Letters Re: Mystic Irish Parade
- j. MOU – Shellfish Area
- k. Letter Re: Thank You
- l. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Rebello
- m. Letters Re: Pawcatuck River Duck Race
- n. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Saunders
- o. Highway Use Permit – Pawcatuck River Duck Race

A motion was made by Commissioner Holt to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

**10) Adjourn**

At 5:55PM Vice-Chair Pucci made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Harry Holt, Secretary

On behalf of the Sea Research Trustees and President Steve Coan, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Stonington Police dept on the handling of one of our dear colleagues tragic accident which happened last Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Her name was Sarah Delano. Sarah had a bright future with the Mystic Aquarium. She was about to be married and has a wonderful family.

You can imagine the horror once the situation started to unfold. Chief Darren Stewart kept Dr. Coan, abreast of the situation minute by minute genuinely guiding him through a very difficult situation.

Capt Jerry Desmond came to the Aquarium to lend his expertise to our grieving staff. Jerry showed true compassion to those who's emotions were so raw.

The officers at the scene did their job respectfully. They were true troupers, and I can only imagine how difficult it was for them.

We heard from several family members on the exceptional work from the SPD.

The days following were very tough. But there is a little bit of irony to this situation. Dr. Coan, Trustee John Holstein and myself had served on the BOPC together and in conversation, there was a bit of reflection. We were very proud to have served and had been instrumental in working with the leadership to help shape and push forward the department forward. As Commissioners we were informed on incidents that happened in our town, but this one had hit home. But because of our relationship with the Dept., we were able to

**make it through. It is an honor to serve on the BOPC. Several of you I had the opportunity to work with when I was Chair.**

**I believe that one of the most important things to learn in life is that you can make a difference in your community. No matter who you are or where you live. I have seen so many good deeds- people helped, lives improved, because we came together to do the right thing.**

**Kudos to the SPD... Welcome Commssioner Peter Rotella.**