

AMENDED DRAFT

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2014
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS
MEETING MINUTES**

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

1) Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Olsson called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

2) Remarks of Visitors

Route 1 Crosswalk

Jill Thibdeau, Brookside Lane, Pawcatuck

In attendance to request crosswalk near the entrance to Brookside. Ms. Thibdeau stated there is a crosswalk at the intersection of Spellman Drive & Route 1, however there is not a sidewalk on the Brookside side of the road that allows safe access to the crosswalk. Ms. Thibdeau stated she is concerned for the safety of those that need to cross the road, especially for those that are handicapped.

The Commission addressed agenda item 4c at this time:

4. Traffic

c. Letter Re: Request for Crosswalk – Route 1 Pawcatuck near Human Services

Chief Stewart stated that the State will not install another crosswalk so close to an existing one due to the effect this could have on traffic. Chief Stewart recommended writing a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting installation of a side walk from Brookside Lane to the intersection of Route 1 & Spellman Drive.

The Commission concurred; Chief Stewart will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen.

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2) Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)

Lord's Point Golf Cart Use

John Dixon, Lords Point

In attendance to request permission to begin developing a plan that will allow the use of golf carts on Lord's Point, especially for the elderly and disabled. Mr. Dixon stated that he would like to see Lord's Point adopt additional restrictions on golf cart use, such as the use of only electric powered carts, and restrictions on the number of riders per cart.

Jennifer Daly-McFadden, Lord's Point

Ms. Daly-McFadden stated that the Lords Point Board had a split vote; her concern is that allowing the use of golf carts in general will encourage misuse.

The Commission addressed agenda item 4f at this time:

4. Traffic

f. Letter Re: Golf Carts on Public Highways

Chief Stewart explained that golf cart operators must adhere to the same laws and regulations as automobile operators; any misuse will result in the same penalty, however he does not believe residents can be restricted to only using electric carts.

Chair Olsson suggested implementing a plan on a one year trial basis.

Commission discussion determined the following:

Regulations Concerning the Use of Golf Carts in the Town of Stonington:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14-300g of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, the Stonington Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC), acting herein as the duly constituted Traffic Authority of the Town of Stonington, hereby permits the operation of Golf Carts within the Town in accordance with the terms of this regulation.
2. Gas and/or electric powered Golf Carts permitted on Stonington Town roads must be equipped with a minimum of four (4) wheels, capable of a maximum speed of no more than twenty five (25) miles per hour, capable of transporting no more than four (4) persons and comply with the following standards:
 - 2.1. Equipped with a locking brake, main power switch, head lamp(s), tail/brake lamps, operable horn as defined in section 14-80(e) of the Connecticut General Statutes, rear view mirror and seatbelts/passenger safety restraints for rear-facing passengers.
 - 2.2. A flag with a minimum height of seventy two (72) inches from the ground and at least one foot above any installed roof shall be placed on the left rear of the Golf Cart to assist pedestrians and motor vehicle operators in observing the location and operation of a Golf Cart.
 - 2.3. A valid registration sticker from the Stonington Police Department placed in a visible location on the rear of the Golf Cart.

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2) Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)

Lord's Point Golf Cart Use (cont'd)

4. Traffic

f. Letter Re: Golf Carts on Public Highways (cont'd)

Regulations Concerning the Use of Golf Carts in the Town of Stonington (cont'd):

3. Prior to operation of a Golf Cart the owner shall register it with the Stonington Police Department. The Stonington Police Department shall prepare a registration form and registration sticker for the registration of Golf Carts. The registration shall expire on May 1st of each calendar year (September 15th 2015 per Police Commission for a one year trial basis). The owner of a Golf Cart shall at all times meet the following standards to obtain and maintain a valid Golf Cart Registration:
 - 3.1. The owner must submit proof of ownership, such as a certificate of title or bill of sale, and a certificate of insurance covering the Golf Cart that meets the State of Connecticut minimum liability insurance requirements for a motor vehicle or insurance requirements that are established by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicle Regulations concerning Golf Carts upon adoption of the same.
 - 3.2. The Golf Cart must satisfy the standards of section 2 above.
 - 3.3. The payment of a fee in the amount of \$100.00 is due for each registration period (\$100 registration fee + \$18.50 for the cost of the registration plate-once plate is owned subsequent years will only require the registration fee). From time to time the Board of Police Commissioners may amend the amount of such fee to an amount sufficient to cover all costs associated with the implementation and enforcement of the requirements of this regulation.
 - 3.4. The BoPC may waive the requirements under section 2 and allow the operation of golf carts during special events such as the Mystic Art Festival and Taste of Mystic/Mystic Eats by organizers of such events.
4. The following conditions shall apply to the operation of a Golf Cart:
 - 4.1. Operators must possess a valid Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, proof of insurance and a valid Golf Cart registration.
 - 4.2. All applicable Connecticut and local laws and regulations governing the operation of a motor vehicle, including but not limited to parking rules and regulations, are applicable to the operation of a Golf Cart.
 - 4.3. Operation of a Golf Cart shall be permitted only between one-half hour after sunrise and one-half hour prior to sunset.
 - 4.4. Passengers shall be limited to one (1) passenger per seat, with no more than four (4) passengers in a Golf Cart.
5. Golf carts may be operated only on roads located in the following areas of the Town:
 - 5.1. The Lord's Point community, more particularly Town roads located within Lord's Point that are south of the Amtrak Viaduct.

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2) Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)

Lord's Point Golf Cart Use (cont'd)

4. Traffic

f. Letter Re: Golf Carts on Public Highways (cont'd)

Regulations Concerning the Use of Golf Carts in the Town of Stonington (cont'd):

6. The Stonington Police Department shall prepare a map of plan depicting the roads described in Section 5 hereof, shall file the original thereof with the Stonington Town Clerk, and shall make copies thereof available to members of the public.
7. Any person who operated a Golf Cart in violation of any provision of subsection (a) of Conn. Gen. Stat. §14-300g, any insurance requirement established in accordance with subsection (b) of Conn. Gen. Stat. §14-300g or any conditions or limitations established by the Stonington Board of Police Commissioners for the operation of Golf Carts shall have committed an infraction and will be subject to the same fine structure of motor vehicles as defined in Connecticut General Statutes.
8. Emergency vehicles associated with organized Police/Fire/Ambulance services are exempt from requirements under section 2 and can operate on any road in connection with official duties.

A motion was made by Commissioner Holt to approve the Golf Cart Regulations based on the Chief's recommendations for a one year trial basis. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

3) Correspondence

- a. Zoning amendment application: Request to Amend Town Zoning Regulations to Allow Health Clubs – Information only; Police Commission has no comment.
- b. Letter & Article Re: Boats in Williams Cove – Information only
- c. Letter Re: Information on Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance

4) Traffic

- a. Letters Re: Parking on Stillman Avenue - Chief recommended yellow paint.
- b. Letter Re: Maria Assunta Candlelight Vigil Procession
 - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pucci to approve the Maria Assunta Candlelight Vigil Procession scheduled for August 17, 2014, provided all necessary paperwork and insurance is in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.
- c. Letter Re: Request for Crosswalk – Route 1 Pawcatuck near Human Services
See Remarks of Visitors
- d. "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" Sign Requests
 1. Lantern Hill Road, Old Mystic
 2. Richmond Lane, Mystic
 3. North Main Street, Stonington
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Holt to approve installation of "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" signage on Lantern Hill Road in Old Mystic, Richmond Lane in Mystic and North Main Street in Stonington. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.
- e. Letter Re: Site Line Issue – Al Harvey Road
- f. Letter Re: Golf Carts on Public Highways – See Remarks of Visitors
- g. E-mail & Letter Re: Multi-Way Stop Signs on State Roads
- h. Letter & Memorandum of Understanding Re: Coogan Boulevard Improvements
- i. Letter Re: Spruce Ridge Development

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5) Approval of Minutes for the July 10, Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Holt to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2014 regular meeting. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

6) Report of the Chief of Police

- a. Budget Report
- b. Monthly Report
- c. Pawcatuck Statistics
- d. Alarm Report
- e. Special Event Schedule
- f. Letter Re: Reserve Officer Joseph Coco Resignation
The Commission thanked Officer Coco for his hard work & dedication
- g. Memo Re: Chapter 37 Rules & Regs - Tabled
- h. New Vehicles
- i. E-Mail Re: Pawcatuck Cameras
- j. E-Mail Re: Fuel for FY 2014-2015

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

7) Consent Agenda

- a. Letters Re: Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
- b. Letter Re: Sergio Franchi Concert
- c. Letter Re: St. Michael School Road Race
- d. Letter Re: No Parking – North Stonington Road
- e. Letter Re: Division of Scientific Services Questionnaire
- f. Letters Re: Maria Assunta Procession
- g. Highway User Permit: Maria Assunta Procession
- h. Letter: Holy Ghost Festival
- i. Letters Re: Donation to Animal Control
- j. Letter Re: Good Job – Officer Burge
- k. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Burge
- l. Letter Re: Thank You – Groton Town Fireworks
- m. E-Mail Re: Thank You – CT Law Enforcement Memorial
- n. Event: Special Olympics Parade & Sailing Regatta
- o. Letter Re: Thank You – Groton Long Point Police Department Family Night
- p. Letter Re: Stonington High School Safety

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

8) Adjourn

At 6:06PM Commissioner Holt made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Holt, Secretary