

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 8, 2006  
7:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Edward McCabe, Clerk James O'Boyle, Commissioners Dennis Curran and John Holstein; Chief David Erskine, Captain Jerry Desmond, Lieutenant Darren Stewart and Brian Risica – SPD Intern

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Stephen Bickford

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Remarks of Visitors
- 3) Approval of Minutes for May 11, 2006 Meeting  
A motion was made by John Holstein and seconded by James O'Boyle to approve the minutes for the May 11, 2006 meeting and it was voted.
- 4) Report of the Chief of Police
  - A motion was made by James O'Boyle and seconded by John Holstein to add the Maria Assunta Society Parade to the Consent Agenda and it was voted.
  - Originally there were 36 candidates for the open officer position; that number is now down to 5. Board of Finance Chairman advised Chief not to hire until June 12<sup>th</sup> referendum; if passes, interviews probably would not take place until August.
  - Officer Earl Palmer graduated first in his class at the Academy and was presented the Tuskowski Award upon graduation. Commissioner Curran suggested a letter and plaque be sent to Officer Palmer to recognize his achievement. Chief Erskine stated that he will take care of this.
  - Mutual Police Assistance Agreement was discussed.
- 5) Jameson Court Remarks  
Chairman McCabe discussed the guidelines for the Public Hearing:
  - Testimony from applicant
  - Public Testimony – Favor, opposed, comments
  - Staff Testimony
  - Rebuttal by applicant

The meeting recessed from 7:12 – 7:26 PM to secure a recording device at the request of Mr. Fusaro's attorney.

Applicant agreed that the recording mechanism was sufficient.

### TESTIMONY FROM THE APPLICANT

The property owner presented return receipts to the Commissioners, as requested.

#### Peter Gardiner, Engineer

Presented copies of site line demonstration plan and subdivision plans. The plans are proposing a short cul-de-sac on Palmer, opposite of Prospect (Jameson Court) and show access, parking and sitelines. He stated a hired traffic engineer had prepared the report who recommended a 4-way intersection with stop signs and bars at each 4 corners and crosswalks thru intersections. He stated that all of the Commissioners' suggestions had been incorporated in the new plans. He stated that Jameson Court can handle the parking spaces that will be lost.

### PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR THOSE IN FAVOR

#### Jeffrey Marquart – Oceanwise Realty

Mr. Marquart stated that the homes would cost \$300,000 and under which he stated is a needed market segment for seniors (featuring 1<sup>st</sup> floor master bedrooms and small capes). He stated that affordable housing (200-300K) is a positive thing for the community and he hopes the Commissioners vote to approve the plans.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Suzanne Giorno, Antonio's Grinder Shop, 2 Prospect Street

Ms. Giorno expressed parking concerns. She stated that the deli will have high turnover of customers, once open, and she is concerned residents will park for long periods of time.

Chairman McCabe confirmed with Joe Bragaw, Town Engineer, that residents have sufficient parking on property. He suggested that businesses need to let customers know where they can park.

Tony Giorno, Antonio's Grinder Shop, 2 Prospect Street

He stated his wife already addressed his comments.

Meg Sitter, Whistle Stop

She stated that the current on-street parking is used by residents. She expressed concerns that residents should still need ample parking; 1-hour parking signs will help. She stated that resident's park in her lot when street is full and she was told that because it is private property, she cannot tow. She stated that even though parking will hurt, Mr. Fusaro should be able to develop.

Suzanne Giorno, Antonio's Grinder Shop, 2 Prospect Street

She stated that residents should not be parking in 1-hour limit spaces to begin with. She stated that this should be addressed with tenants, owners, etc. She requested to keep new parking as “business parking” within time limits.

Discussion ensued between Chairman McCabe and Chief Erskine regarding how many 1-hour spaces currently exist and how residents used the spaces. Chief Erskine stated that he will send letters to cars that park for extended periods of time in 1-hour spaces.

Discussion ensued regarding what the time limit should be on parking spaces on Jameson Court.

### STAFF COMMENTS

Captain Desmond

Captain Desmond discussed “community policing” stating that the SPD is available for calls with people having problems w/neighbors parking, etc. He also stated that mediation services are available.

Joe Bragaw, Town Engineer

He stated that he has been working with developers for about 1 year trying to come up with a solution. He stated that Mr. Fusaro should have the opportunity to develop his land and he believes that these plans are the best solution = safer intersection.

Commissioner Curran

Commissioner Curran discussed the 4-way stop.

### REBUTTAL BY APPLICANT

No comments.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Michael Williamson – 1 Palmer Street

He stated that he is “all for development.” Expressed concerns about the Phase 1 of construction and safety issues with children, school buses, etc.

Applicant Rebuttal

Most activity will be contained onsite. The very initial phases will require police to direct traffic. After that, all activity will be contained onsite.

Chief Erskine stated that he saw no need for crossing guards during the project – He does not think project will have that effect.

Only parking spots lost will be opposite of the Antonio business.

Public Hearing closed at 8:08PM

A motion was made by James O'Boyle and seconded by John Holstein to post one-hour parking on Palmer Street and the new spots on Jameson Court from 7AM-7PM and that "STOP" be painted on the street in addition to the signs and bars and the eastern curb cut, currently going into the Whistle Stop lot, be closed and designated as a one-hour stop. An amendment was added to this motion stating that the Commissioners were only approving the traffic portion of the plan presented, with the above stipulations and it was voted.

Chairman McCabe thanked Mr. Fusaro and Joe Bragaw for the work put into these plans.

- 6) Correspondence
  - a. Letter re: Old Saybrook Drug Case
  - b. Letter re: Freedom of Information/Gordon Jeffrey Case
  - c. Letter re: Request for Information – Jeffrey Case
  - d. Letter re: Changing Name of Dog Pound

Discussion ensued between Mr. Burgess, Mystic-Stonington Animal Welfare League and the Commissioners regarding creating a new sign for the dog pound and changing the name to include the words "care and control."

Discussion ensued regarding who would pay for the sign. The Town would have to provide funding. It was decided not to include the "petfinder" web address on the sign at this time. Captain Desmond will check with Animal Control to see how the program is running.

A motion was made by Dennis Curran and seconded by James O'Boyle to change the name of the pound to Stonington Animal Care & Control. It was voted and passed 3 (Commissioners Curran, Holstein, McCabe) -1 (Chairman McCabe).

Curran change name of facility to animal care and control – seconded by James O'Boyle – McCabe – opposed.

- e. Memo re: Dog Pound Change of Name

A motion was made by John Holstein and seconded by Dennis Curran to table the sign item until July.

- 7) Consent Agenda
  - a. Card re: Thank You from the Erskine Family
  - b. Letter re: Parking – Church Street, Stonington
  - c. Letter re: Job Well Done – Special Olympics
  - d. Letter re: Job Well Done – Officer Gregory Howard
  - e. Memo re: Thank You – Pequot Cyclists

- f. Letter re: Pamet Technology Department
- g. Letter re: Thank You – Lions Club Road Race
- h. Letter re: Clairemont Cluster Subdivision
- i. Letter re: Warehouse Expansion – Routes 2 & 95
- j. Letter re: Angel Bike Ride – 5/27 & 5/28/06

A motion was made by James O'Boyle and seconded by Dennis Curran to approve the Consent Agenda and it was voted.

- 8) Traffic
  - a. Letter re: Aquarion Water Company – Joe Bragaw will look into moving stop sign
  - b. Letter re: Jameson Court Subdivision (see above)
- 9) New Business
- 10) Old Business
  - a. Chapter 21 Rules and Regulations – Lt. Darren Stewart and Intern Brian Risica
    - Brian Risica, a Junior at Mitchell College has been working with Lt. Stewart creating policies and looking into issues surrounding Off-duty police officers and what their responsibilities are.
    - Brian Risica discussed off-duty officers' policy – addressed Commissioners with his research and policy proposal plans.
    - Lt. Stewart commended Brian Risica for what a good job he has done while interning at the SPD.
- 11) Adjourn

A motion was made by James O'Boyle and seconded by Dennis Curran to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leanne DiGangi, Secretary