

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2008
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman James O'Boyle, Vice-Chair Dennis Curran,
Commissioners Dr. Stephen Coan, John Holstein and Susette Tibus,
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Jerry Desmond

1) Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman O'Boyle called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2) Remarks of Visitors

Presentation of the Pawcatuck Streetscape Project
Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works

The Pawcatuck Streetscape is an intensive 2 million dollar project aiming to beautify and enhance the downtown area. This project includes (but is not limited to) replacing all the concrete sidewalks, putting in new granite curbing, new handicap ramps and new landscaping from the Pawcatuck River to approximately 200 – 300 feet west of Lester Avenue. Currently in its final stages of development, the project is expected to go out to bid some time in summer, with construction starting after Labor Day of this year. The construction phase will span from this fall to next spring, with project planners very mindful of traffic in the area, as well as, the importance of working closely with downtown businesses. Joe Bragaw's presentation continued, where a detailed map of the streetscape project was presented.

Questions pertaining to presentation:

Vice-Chair Curran questioned if improvements were made for parking downtown. Mr. Bragaw stated that Planning & zoning dictates the number of parking spots allowed, but every opportunity was made from a planning perspective to keep every spot possible.

Resident Carlene Donnarummo questioned what sidewalks would be widened in addition to being replaced. Mr. Bragaw responded that sidewalks will only be widened where they can be without effecting parking.

Joe Bragaw also spoke to the Commission regarding the Cove Road project. Mr. Bragaw recommended that residents be notified of plans to widen a section of the road from 15 ft to 18ft. If residents are notified of this plan, Mr. Bragaw offered to prepare a presentation for the next meeting of the Commission in order to answer any questions and address concerns. Chairman O'Boyle requested the Chief send letters to property owners.

Board of Police Commissioners meeting time discussion

The Commission decided to meet at 5:00 pm for the next several meetings in order to determine if this time is acceptable to the public, as well as conducive to the workings of the Commission itself. The Commission welcomes any feedback from the public regarding this new meeting time.

Carlene Donnarummo, Pawcatuck resident:

Ms. Donnarummo could not find the February meeting agenda on the Town website, therefore placed call to Town Hall. She understands that putting meetings and agendas on the Town website is not an FOI requirement, but believes it is a service to the public. Secretary Morosini apologized for this inconvenience, non-posting of the current agenda to the website was in error, and the mistake was fixed as soon as it was brought to her attention. All agendas are posted at Town Hall in accordance with FOI laws.

In addition, Ms. Donnarummo is opposed to the newly proposed 5 pm meeting time.

3) Approval of Minutes for the January 10, 2008 Regular Meeting

Revision to January 10, 2008 Minutes

Item #5I should read:

- A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran and seconded by Commissioner Tibus to approve the road race in honor of Stephen Donahue on April 22, 2008 as well as adding this race to the list of races that the Chief can approve. Motion carried.

Upon the above revisions, a motion was made by Commissioner Coan and seconded by Commissioner Tibus to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2008 Regular Meeting and it was voted.

4) Report of the Chief of Police

- a. Chief Stewart created a departmental newsletter to give overview of issues going on within the past month. If Commission approves, it will then be e-mailed to the entire department.
- b. Chief thanked everyone for attending his swearing in on February 1, 2008 & making it a memorable day.
- c. Follow-up From Previous Meeting
 - Meeting Times – will be discussed under New Business
 - Mystic Seaport Letter to State & Mr. Parent
 - Chief has not heard back from State of CT
 - Route 2 @ Stillman Avenue Letter to State
 - Chief has not heard back from State of CT
 - Chapman Lane
 - Recognition of Captain Desmond
 - Letter sent to Captain to recognize his hard work on his e-mail project
 - Flanders Road Speed Limit
 - Chief met with Ms. Goodman and will be sending request to State to readdress the speed limit

4) Report of the Chief of Police (cont'd)

- d. Informational Items
 - o Contact List for Police Commission
 - o Westerly Sun Editorial on River Road home invasion
 - o Article of "The Thinning Blue Line"
- e. Hiring Update – Captain Desmond
 - o Currently 101 invited with 14 coming. 8 passed the agility test, 6 failed. Out of the eight, 4 have moved on to backgrounds, other 4 are waiting. New test occurred February 13th, will be reaching out to create another agility test soon.
 - o In addition, Captain working on benefits for spouses of officers, for both property tax abatement and receipt of pension.
- f. Other – Cove Road Update – discussed under Remarks of Visitors
- g. Chief Stewart will put the Five Year Strategic Plan on next months meeting agenda for Commission's input.
- h. Union had a meeting on Tuesday February 12, 2008 where they ratified a memo of understanding regarding compensation for K-9 unit. With the Commissions approval, Chief Stewart will continue to move this program forward by meeting with the Board of Selectmen on February 27, 2008. The Commission approved the continuation of this process.
- i. Sgt smith – letter gas consumption.
- j. Insurance for special events
Chief Stewart questioned what the proper insurance is for special events. A meeting has been set up to determine.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to accept the Report of the Chief. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

6) Correspondence

- a. Letter Re: Mystic Chamber of Commerce – Art Festival
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Holstein to approve the Mystic Art Festival on August 9th & 10th and the Taste of Mystic on September 5th, 6th & 7th. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Curran and approved.
- b. Memo Re: Police Chaplin Program. Chief requested the Commission endorse & move forward with this program.
- c. Memo Re: Guidelines for Commission Notification
 - Commission approves of the Guidelines. A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to adopt the Guidelines as submitted by Chief Stewart. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tibus and approved.
 - Commissioner Coan questioned the need for guidelines when interacting with the press. Vice-Chair Curran will check Commission bylaws to see if this is covered there.
- d. Letter Re: Mr. Rustici – Street Light Request – referred to Town
- e. Letter Re: Gardens by The Sea Event, June 20 & 21
- f. Letter Re: Pawcatuck River Duck Race
- g. Memos Re: Pawcatuck River Duck Race

6) Correspondence (cont'd)

- h. Letter Re: Memorial Day Parade
- i. Letter Re: Ocean Community YMCA Letter Re: Triathlon & Tarzan Brown Run
 - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to approve the YMCA Triathlon on Sunday June 8th and the Tarzan Brown Race on Sunday November 2nd. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.
- j. Letter Re: Easter Seals "Walk With Me" Event
- k. Memo Re: Regional Transportation Project Plan Update

7) Consent Agenda

- a. Memo Re: Arrest Warrants
- b. Memo Re: Legal Traffic Authority Representative
- c. Memo Re: LEC 2008 / 2009 Assessment
- d. Grills Letter Re: Officer Page
- e. Memo Re: MADD
- f. Letter Re: Clairemont Cluster Subdivision
- g. Letter Re: Donation to D.A.R.E. – Wil Landgon
- h. Memo Re: Reserve Status – Officer Joseph Coco
- i. Letter Re: Borough Speed Limit Request
- j. Letter Re: Thank You – Donahue Family
- k. Highway Use Permit – St. Patrick's Day Parade
- l. Letter Re: Thank You – Wreaths Across America
- m. Letter Re: Pawcatuck Farms Information
- n. Memo Re: Fuel Consumption U& New Vehicles

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran and seconded by Commissioner Coan to approve the Consent Agenda and it was voted.

8) Traffic

None

9) Old Business

None

10) New Business

None

11) Adjourn

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tibus and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Morosini
Secretary