

Minutes of the Stony Creek Association – Executive Board Meeting January 10, 2022

Call to order: A meeting of the Stony Creek Association Executive Board was called to order at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday January 10, 2023 by Mark Richter at the Willoughby Wallace Library.

Present: Mark Richter - President, Dan Bullard, Katina Gionteris – Secretary, Matt Milano, Robin Tierney, Courtney Rosenberg, Nick Fischer – Tax Collector, Tina Burne, Stephen Palumbo Jr., Hannah Purdy – Clerk, Amy Bloom

Absent: Brian Love – Treasurer, Harlan Fichtenholtz – Vice President, Ellen Page

Public: 5

Minutes: A motion was made by Amy Bloom, seconded by Tina Burne to accept the minutes as amended below for the 12/6/2022 meeting. All were in favor.

- In the call to order, change “on Zoom” to “at the Willoughby Wallace library”.
- Correction in the maintenance section that Hanna Purdy called about cleaning the memorial stone not Courtney Rosenberg.

Treasurer’s report

- Matt Milano read the treasurers report for the month. We began the month with \$28,964.16 cash on hand in the checking account. We paid bills in the amount of \$838.05 for the Association and ended the month of December with a total of \$28,126.11. Our 3 month certificate of deposit has \$10,090.44 and our 14 month CD has \$20,357.94 totaling \$30,448.38. We have total combined assets of \$58,574.49.
- Matt Milano presented the bills report for this month totaling \$1880.30. The bills presented for payment are below:
 - \$1850.00 to Steven G. Mednick for legal services for the Charter Committee
 - \$30.30 for Quickbooks Online
- A motion was made by Amy Bloom and seconded by Tina Burne to pay the above bills for the month of January. All were in favor.
- The Stony Creek Day remaining balance is \$2,998.96.
- A motion was made by Hanna Purdy and seconded by Steve Palumbo Jr. to forward the treasurers report for audit. All were in favor.

Tax collector’s report – No Report

Legal & Zoning

- Matt Milano read a report from Ellen Page.
 - Variances

- 11 Howd Ave. was approved with no objections from public to reduce the rear set back from 20 feet to 7 feet.
- 32 Watrous – There was an appeal to the zoning department decision from 9/20/2022 stating that the home is a legal non-conforming two family home. Linda Reed requested a continuance on this issue and it was granted. A group of neighbors are appealing that this house is a two family.
- 8 Three Elms Rd. addition and deck are slated for the January meeting.
- Permit for 4 Three Elms Rd. building permit no variances.
- Are we able to enlarge the scope of the Stony Creek Architectural Review Board? Ellen Page would like to plan a meeting to discuss it. Greg Ames is putting together a group to review it. Matt Milano, Amy Bloom and Linda Reed are interested in joining the group.

Report from Ellen Page:

- 125 Thimble Island Road subdivision – request has been made to the RTM to accept the transfer of land to the town and accept a conservation easement. Two issues remain - the future use of the RR ROW for emergency access and the reconstruction of the storm sewer line under the proposed driveway before that element of the subdivision is completed. It appears that the issue will be sent to the Admin Services Committee by the RTM this Wednesday for review in their February meeting – that will be the place to make concerns heard. Discussion?
- Presentation to Stony Creek by the Coastal Vulnerability Working Group (CVWG) – The CVWG would like to make an informational presentation to Stony Creek residents later in February (time to be determined later). We would like the Boards assistance in getting the message out to the village once the date is determined.
- Coordination with the CVWG on flooding and access issues – it appears that several issues related to coastal flooding are being discussed by the Board (possible flood gate by the Post Office and a future village access route necessitated by SLR). These are topics that the CVWG will be studying, and it would be helpful if the Board would coordinate with the CVWG if you decide to spend time on these issues moving forward.
- Coordination with RTM representatives on issues involving the Town Administration – to make sure that the Board and your Representatives are working in coordination.
- Status of the underpass flood signage – since a lot of work was put into the initiative to have this warning system implemented it would be helpful if the Board would keep your representatives involved with any discussions with the Town about the system.
- Status of issues with the newly paved firehouse parking lot – The work on the lot has been completed. There are some remaining signage issues with the neighboring residents. Any concerns of the Board?

Police and traffic

- Steve Palumbo Jr. heard from Commissioner Austin. The crosswalk at Watrous and School Street will be repaired and have signs on both sides. The only item that he did not get approved was to look at parking on Buena Vista. They rejected the proposal for a crosswalk at the four corners.

- The flood zone signs were discussed with the first selectmen and the idea of taking them down. Evidently there was a group that was meeting and discussing the flood sign well before it happened that did not include the Stony Creek Association. Selectman Dunbar stressed that it is very important that we have advance notice from our representatives of any changes planned in Stony Creek.
- Firehouse parking lot
 - Unk Daros had many criticisms for the parking lot and how it was put in. Why were bumpers put in the middle. There were ripples installed and have a big drop off. The pile of stones across the side block anyone from walking directly to the fire house. Even firemen have to go around it and that takes more time. He wanted it recorded that he believes the way the parking lot was paved was out of spite or incompetence.
 - There a blocks in the way of getting to the rotary book drop off.
 - Suggestion that there could/should have been a letter put out to the community about it.
 - It is a big problem that larger commercial vehicles cannot park there due to the layout. This just causes them to park on School St. which doesn't help anything.
 - This parking lot is the only one in the town of Branford with rules.
 - Selectman Dunbar spoke about problems with it and the difficulties.
 - Mark Richter and Dan Bullard met with the first selectman and talked about the parking lot. They requested a couple of spots be requested as overnight parking. They also requested to be on the agenda of the selectman's meeting but were not able to attend due to the short notice provided. The Zoom meeting was recorded.
 - Some of the issue with the fire house parking lot that were discussed:
 - Overnight parking - During an emergency the town can waive any overnight parking.
 - Concrete slabs
 - Rules listed on the sign may be to restrictive
 - Priority should be safety issues for the firemen.
 - The SCA needs to determine what we want for the parking lot. It does not mean that the selectmen will grant it. The 3 selectmen are considering rules for all the parking lots in town.
 - We are on the agenda for the next selectman's meeting.

Maintenance

- Courtney Rosenberg reported that due to the flooding from the storm, there is a large trench behind the sea wall at Madiera Park and a missing garbage can liner in front of the post office.
- Nick Fischer talked to Gary Zielinski from public works about the drainage in front of the fountain. They will work out together how best to fix it.
- Hanna Purdy reported that the Monuments at the flag triangle are scheduled to be cleaned in the spring for approximately \$300.00 each.

- Mark Richter read a report from representative Peter Henschel's. The Coastal Vulnerability Working Group would like to make a presentation to the Stony Creek community in February. Coordination with the BCG is being discussed. Hanna Purdy will coordinate scheduling the meeting with Peter Henschel. The SCA would like to have a member of our board on this working group.
 - Unk DaRos reported that there used to be a road Mobauk Rd. on the eastern end of Stony Creek that led out of town but it is gone now.
- Email from Kate Waldron thanking Courtney for all her work done and asking about the status of the maintaining the sidewalk borders, grass, leaves and drainage gully on Thimble Island Rd in the area near Bowhay Hill Dr. next to the railroad trestle. The letter will be included with the minutes. Courtney is following up on it.
- There will be a meeting coordinated by Steve Palumbo Jr. to discuss the fire house parking lot and what we want to request from the selectmen. Robin Tierney and Dan Bullard would like to attend the meeting.

Charter Revision Committee

- Amy Bloom reported that Harlan Fichtenholtz spoke to the lawyer and that the SCA gave up their rights to make decisions on zoning issues. Our best route is to go to the town. It may be helpful to request a rule in Stony Creek from the plan of conservation and development.

Nominating and election committee – None

Stony Creek Day committee

- The committee will schedule their first meeting soon and set the date for Stony Creek Day 2023.

Old business – No Report

- Neighbors in need/Welcome committee – None
- AirBnB was discussed with the first selectman and he said that things regarding short term rentals is undetermined at this point.

New Business

- Matt Milano made a motion to create a special events committee seconded by Steve Palumbo Jr.. There was 1 opposed and 7 in favor. The motion passed.
 - Unk Daros suggested moving the Christmas tree 4 feet to the west on the flag triangle and 5 feet to the south so that it does not block the flagpole.
 - There was discussion about moving the Christmas tree to Madiera park.
 - Discussion of placement of the Christmas tree will be an agenda item going forward.
- Set meetings for the year 2023: All meetings will be held the first Tuesday of the month. The only exception will be the July meeting due to the holiday. The election will be on Monday July 10th and the meeting for July will be Tuesday July 11th.

- Hanna made a motion that we commit to spend \$10,000 this year rather than sitting on the money seconded by Courtney. The motion was withdrawn but discussion will be added to the agenda next month under maintenance.
- Linda Reed suggested that we ask our representatives to come to our meetings in a rotation.

Hanna Purdy motioned and Robin Tierney seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Katina Gionteris, Secretary
Hannah Purdy, Clerk