

Minutes of the Stony Creek Association – Executive Board Meeting March 7, 2022

Call to order: A meeting of the Stony Creek Association Executive Board was called to order at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday March 7, 2023 by Harlan Fichtenholtz on Zoom.

Present: Dan Bullard, Katina Gionteris – Secretary, Matt Milano, Courtney Rosenberg, Hannah Purdy – Clerk, Robin Tierney, Amy Bloom, Brian Love – Treasurer, Harlan Fichtenholtz – Vice President

Absent: Mark Richter – President, Tina Burne, Nick Fischer – Tax Collector, Stephen Palumbo Jr, Ellen Page

Public: 8

Amy Bloom made a motion to move Sandy Fischer to first on the agenda. Sandy Fischer would like to offer her services. She would like to hire someone to work with her to plant flowers. She would like to ask for a budget of \$500 to do so. Amy Bloom made a motion to give Sandy Fischer the \$500 budget to plant flowers for the beautification project. Dan Bullard seconded, all were in favor.

Minutes: A motion was made by Hanna Purdy and seconded by Dan Bullard to accept the minutes as written for the 2/7/2023 meeting. All were in favor.

Treasurer's report

- Brian Love read the treasurers report for the month. We began the month with \$26,245.81 cash on hand in the checking account. We paid bills in the amount of \$355.30 for the Association and ended the month of January with a total of \$25,890.51. Our 3 month certificate of deposit has \$10,091.30 and our 14 month CD has \$20,364.85 totaling \$30,456.15. We have total combined assets of \$56,346.66.
- A motion was made by Hanna Purdy and seconded Courtney Rosenberg to forward the treasurers report for audit. All were in favor.
- Brian Love presented the bills report for this month totaling \$30.30 to Quickbooks online. Since this is a recurring payment there was no need to vote.

Tax collector's report – No Report

Legal & Zoning

- Hanna Purdy read a report that Matt Milano prepared.
 - The Town of Branford Zoning Board of Appeals reviewed 32 Watrous and upheld the decision confirming it is a 2 family house.
 - 8 School St. has a permit for window/roofing/siding.
 - 215 Thimble Island Rd. the Fife and drum hall are doing some renovation work.
- We would like to invite the Stony Creek architectural review board to our next meeting. We will add it as a separate bullet point on the agenda.

- Linda Reed, a member of the public, mentioned the large 29 acre parcel of land surrounding Firemen’s Field with an address on Bowhay Hill Rd. Hanna Purdy will look into it at town hall to get a sense of where the boundaries are.

Police and traffic

- Steve Palumbo Jr. sent the following report to the board regarding the Stony Creek FD Parking Lot.
 - Mark Richter and I met with Peter Henschel at the Stony Creek Fire Department parking lot. From this meeting Peter Henschel drafted a letter which was or will be sent to Jamie Cosgrove, attached is the letter. One letter came from me as the President of the Fire Department and another letter from Mark Richter as the President of the SCA.
 - Peter Henschel said the letter addresses the following:
 - The island of large stone fill along the side of the parking lot that makes it hard for the firefighters to get to the fire house.
 - The center curbing creates a problem when trucks come in to transfer loads.
 - We would like to allow overnight parking and there is some wording about it.
 - Speed Bumps - We need to ask Harlan Fichtenholtz if he spoke with our attorney regarding the legality of installing speed bumps ourselves.
 - Harlan Fichtenholtz sent the question to the lawyer and will let us know when he hears back.
- The final draft of the letter to Jamie Cosgrove will be included with these minutes.
- Alan Horowitz, a member of the public, asked if we could invite the garden club to add plantings to the island area in the fire house parking lot to make that area more beautiful and maybe in memory or tribute to the firefighters. He also suggested that maybe other properties could be incorporated as well in the beautification.
- Ted Ells, a member of the public, mentioned the flooding of the area from the Stony Creek Market down to the docks. He asked if a fire truck or ambulance can get through in an emergency during the flooding. Peter Henschel responded that he has met with the fire chief in the past and he stated that during more regular flooding like our current spring tides (meaning abnormally high tides - not hurricane flooding) that most emergency vehicles can get through. There are also boats that can be brought in on trailers if there is higher flooding.
 - Alan Horowitz, a member of the public, spoke about the flooding in his yard and neighbors yards behind the fire house. That the drain pipe gets backed up when the drain pipe under the railroad underpass gets backed up.
 - Phil Brencher, a member of the public, has spoken to Gary Zielinski from public works and the engineering department. His understanding is that the town is working on the catch basins below the railroad underpass.
 - Alan Horowitz will share his information with Peter Henschel who will talk with the town engineer to see if there is more information about this.
- Courtney Rosenberg reported that she had forwarded a letter to Steve Palumbo Jr. and Tina Burne that she had received from Jerry Shaw regarding some grant funding that was received in Short Beach.

Maintenance

- Courtney Rosenberg reported that she discussed the following with Alex Palluzzi:
 - Painting projects – ceiling of gazebo at the beach and the benches at Madiera park. Alex may be able to have an eagle scout or another volunteer group work on this.
 - Fixing one of the benches in the gazebo.
 - Pier and foundation issues at the beach – may be able to get this work included in the 2023/2024 year funding and may have to look into a grant to fund it.
 - The Branford Parks and Recreation department will cover cost for a sign about the sharp objects at the beach. If anyone has wording suggestions for the sign, they can email Courtney Rosenberg at CrOSE1343@yahoo.com.
 - If anyone has any other ideas for projects that need to be worked on in Stony Creek, they can email Courtney Rosenberg at CrOSE1343@yahoo.com.
- Hanna Purdy is working on other landscaping projects.
- Fibar (which costs approximately \$5,000) will be brought in for the playground by the end of April. They will also clean up the basketball court and put in new poles.
- The benches that we ordered came in at the end of last season. When they went to put them together, they realized that the wrong benches were sent. Alex Palluzzi will be meeting with the contact at the equipment company to see if they can get to correct ones.
- Courtney Rosenberg left a message with Darren Collins about getting a price to cut back the ivy along the wall at Bayview park. Courtney Rosenberg will find out the cost of the spring clean up of various areas and we can vote on it at the next meeting.
- Courtney Rosenberg asked Gary Zielinski about garbage receptacles. Maybe the Association can pay to replace a number of those in Stony Creek. She will get a quote from him.
- The toilet trailer is still waiting on 2 faucets and 1 toilet to be installed. The wastewater treatment plant said it should be in and working by Memorial Day.
- Can Manuel Gionteris look at the electrical at Bayview park to give an estimate of what needs to be changed/updated.
- Peter Hentschel said the town put all the items on our sidewalk list into the budget for this year.
- There is a big chunk of curbing that had just been installed at the bottom of Bowhay Hill that broke off. Courtney Rosenberg will let the town engineer know about it.
- Courtney is waiting to hear back from Josh Brooks about the stones on the memorial triangle and replacing the chain. Phil Brencher suggested in the chat that if you mix salt, white vinegar and a little dish detergent you can make a non-toxic weed killer to use around the anchor stone display in front of the veterans memorials on the green.

Charter Revision Committee

- There have not been any recent meetings of the Charter Revision committee but one will be scheduled soon.

Nominating and election committee

- Dan Bullard requested that all current board members email him to tell him whether they are going to run or not this year.

Stony Creek Day committee

- There was a meeting on Feb. 23rd. The next Stony Creek Day meeting will be held on March 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM location to be determined and another on April 27th.
- We would like to get as many members of the community involved as possible. Everyone is invited to attend our meetings.
- We are adding a parade this year.
- Stony Creek Day 2023 will be held on Saturday September 9th.
- Minutes of our last meeting are attached to these minutes.

Town Representative Report – nothing to add

Special Events Committee

- There will be discussions in the future about placement of the Christmas tree.

Old business – No Report

- Neighbors in need/Welcome committee – None
- Dan Bullard volunteered to be on the Coastal Vulnerability Working Group.

New Business

- Monday night March 20th 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall at the Stony Creek Congregational Church called “Let’s celebrate Stony Creek”. Craig Newton will be the facilitator for it. We will send out an email blast.
- Jake Greenvall will order a large flag for the green. Brian Doherty is in charge of raising and lowering the flag as needed each year. He orders the POW flag as well.
- The SCA has many old records. They are currently in 5 large totes being stored in the museum under the stairway. We need someone to go through and get rid of some of the records. It was last done about 25 years ago.
 - Jerry Shaw, a member of the public, mentioned that when we make up the by laws, we can consider having a Stony Creek historian. This could be a job for the historian. It is important to make sure the minutes are stored consistently.
 - There are some of the formal records in the library as well. The file cabinet was set up in response to a FOIA request. The file cabinet is locked and there should be a key at the library desk.

Dan Bullard motioned, and Courtney Rosenberg seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Katina Gionteris, Secretary
Hannah Purdy, Clerk