

Minutes of the Stony Creek Association – Executive Board Meeting October 3, 2023

Call to order: A meeting of the Stony Creek Association Executive Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 3rd, 2023 by Mark Richter at the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library.

Present: Mark Richter – President, Dan Bullard, Mark Gaynor, Katina Gionteris – Clerk, Courtney Rosenberg, Amy Bloom, Brian Love – Treasurer, Harlan Fichtenholtz – Vice President (Zoom), Stephen Palumbo Jr, Kate Waldron

Absent: Nick Fischer – Tax Collector, Robin Tierney, Matt Milano, Tina Burne

Public: 4

Minutes: A motion was made by Steve Palumbo Jr. and seconded by Amy Bloom to accept the minutes as amended below for the 9/5/2023 meeting. All were in favor.

- Under Stony Creek Day where it says that “For now we are borrowing the old town stage”, correct to now say that “We now own the old town stage”.

Treasurer’s report

- Brian Love presented the bills report for this month totaling \$8,304.03 listed below:
 - \$1080 to Jake Paulluzzi for September maintenance
 - \$30.30 to Quickbooks
 - \$712.47 Mark Richter reimbursement for the Stony Creek Day tent
 - \$750 to Tangible Planet for videography provide for Stony Creek Day
 - \$1500 to Ralph Sacco for sound system and services on Stony Creek Day
 - \$725 to Attorney Steve Mednick for charter legal fees
 - \$1277 to Clean Restrooms Rentals for porto-potties on Stony Creek Day
 - \$100 to the State of Connecticut Tax Collector
 - \$515.43 to L.H. Brenner Inc for Stony Creek Day event insurance
 - \$192 to Big Prints for banners for Stony Creek Day
 - \$265 to Guilford Savings Bank for charge back fees
 - \$1120 to Jake Palluzzi for August maintenance
 - \$536 to Mark Richter for reimbursement for Stony Creek Day supplies
- Steve Palumbo Jr. has an additional bill for children’s meals from the fire house in the amount of \$385.
- Amy Bloom made a motion to pay the bills and Mark Gaynor seconded. All were in favor.
- Brian Love read the treasurers report for the month. We began the month with \$33,161.14 cash on hand in the checking account. We paid bills and received donations in the net amount of \$6894.34 for the Association and ended the month of September with a total of \$26,266.80. Our 3 month certificate of deposit (CD) has \$10,168.45 and our 14 month CD has \$20,388.52. We have total combined assets of \$56,823.77.

- We received \$500 in donations towards Stony Creek Day.
- A motion was made by Steve Palumbo Jr. and seconded by Amy Bloom to forward the treasurers report for audit. All were in favor.
- In April when the CDs mature, we will need to decide if we want to transfer some of the funds from the CDs into our checking account.

Tax collector's report

Mark Richter read a report from Nick Fischer that all is going ok and he will send out the next round of bills next week.

Legal & Zoning

- Dan Bullard reported that there were no items from the Planning and Zoning or the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) this month that are located in Stony Creek. There was one application for a house on Bear Island but that is not located within the Association.

Police and traffic

- Steve Palumbo Jr. reported that the mirror is now up on the pole on the corner of Watrous and School St. It looks like they may be putting up new telephone poles soon so it may have to come down again.
- Tina Burne and Dan Bullard were both able to attend the police commissioner traffic meeting. The traffic commission will be evaluating all the crosswalks in town to make sure they are all ADA compliant. The commission turned down placing the MPH speed limit sign in front of the church because there is not enough police manpower. They will not put up any speed bumps/humps because Branford is not supportive of their use and they break the snow plows.
- A Member of the public read a statement from residents, they live next door to the market and constantly have people block their driveway. They would like a yellow triangle to be painted on the road in front of their driveway. They have a child with epilepsy and are terrified that she will have a seizure when someone is blocking their driveway. They want to know why the law enforcement officers in Stony Creek do not enforce anything.
 - Dan Bullard suggested that we have defined parking spaces painted on the roadway.
- Peter Henschel suggested that we put together a list of traffic/roadway issues that are not being addressed in Stony Creek and try to get a meeting with First Selectman Cosgrove, the Police Chief and someone from the Police Commissioner Traffic committee to discuss the issues with. The dockmaster reports to First Selectman Cosgrove and the Community Service Officer reports to the police chief.
 - Steve Palumbo Jr. will head up the committee to put together the letter. All members of the Stony Creek Association Board please send their issues to Steve Palumbo Jr. to collect. We may also want to go around town to and identify all the places with issues and document them with addresses and pictures. We should include the same map that was used for the sidewalks.
 - Harlan Fichtenholtz mentioned that there are also a lot of issues with Leetes Island Rd. to include in the list.
 - Do we want to send out an email asking people to send their issues with traffic and parking to us and get more input from the community?

- The first selectmen will not give resident only parking anywhere in town. There is an issue that it would be difficult to enforcement.
- Are we allowed to pay someone to paint the yellow lines instead of waiting for the town?

Maintenance

- Courtney Rosenberg reported that Darren Collins has completed his final clean up of the season.
- The toilet trailer has been removed and is in the process of being winterized. The porta potties will be staying through Columbus Day weekend. The SCA will keep Jake Palluzzi employed through Columbus Day weekend.
- The SCA should make a point to use the message board at the library.

By-Law Revision Committee

- Harlan Fichtenholtz shared a draft of the revised By-Laws. They will be sent out to the community and prepare for discussion at the next SCA meeting on 11/7/2023.
- Summary of key changes:
 - Election process
 - Duties of officers – Clarify which/when the officers have voting privileges. Vice president can reside over meetings in the absence of the president.
 - Clarification of absence policy – There are three absences allowed for the year. The clerk will notify the executive board if there are any board members that are getting close to the limits.
 - Administration committee – They would like the Administration committee to be responsible for communication with the board, maintaining the website, making sure information is available to the public.
 - SCARB members - Each year would like to ask a member of SCARB to sit on the legal and zoning committee to help us understand their role and what things are going on in the Association.
 - Special committees – Some of the committees that have been in for awhile should become standing committees.
- Do we have the right to hire our own constable/police officer? Yes. If it is a police officer from Branford then they can issue tickets and an officer that is not a Branford police officer could also. It would be very expensive but we could explore options if it came down to that. We would need to discuss this possibility with the police chief.
- Can we add language in the By-Laws about absences due to religious holidays.

Nominating and election committee - No Report

Town Representative Report

- Peter Henschel reported that the town intends to do the work this fall. They may have begun the process of doing their inventory and planning. We may want to contact John Hoeffler in

the Engineering Department and ask for the opportunity to review the list with them before it moves forward.

- Fire House Parking lot – The center divider curbs have been taken out. Peter Henschel thinks that the issue with the island is being removed through the Department of Public Works. The solution is to remove the stone and fill it.
- The flood signage is still waiting for some issue with accessing all the parts needed. The town still intends to do it. Mark recommends putting speeding signs on the sign but we would need to get it approved by the traffic commission.
- Presentation for coastal vulnerability working group – Peter Henschel suggested that a sub group of village residents work with them. Dan Bullard helped get a group together to be members of this working group. We may want to make this group one of our special committees. A couple of potential things:
 - Low flood walls for nuisance funding which goes up to 2050. Peter Henschel has met with the town and John Hoeffler about it.
 - Secondary access if roads are cut off by flood waters. One route could be Three Elms Rd connecting to Squawbrook Rd. The second is to work with the landtrust to see if we can link up with Wallace Road as a route out of Stony Creek. Peter Henschel suggests hiring Criscuolo Engineering to do title searches about the properties involved with connecting Three Elms road and Squawbrook Road. He will get a price estimate and bring the information back to the Association to see if we would be willing to fund this portion of the work.
- Courtney Rosenberg asked Peter Henschel about help with the deteriorating boat launch and wall that runs perpendicular to the ramp. The pier in front of the gazebo at the beach is deteriorating and looks like it could cave in. She sent email and pictures to the town. She talked to Jenn Aquino in the town engineers office about it. She will email copies to Peter including the pictures.

Stony Creek Day committee

- THANK YOU to all our sponsors, residents, Stony Creek Fire House and the town of Branford for the stage and all the workers that put in their time to make it awesome!!! It was exactly what we wanted it to be and we hope it will be even better next year!
- Steve Palumbo Jr. reported that the stage needs a place to be stored and we need a 40 foot sea container for it. We also need an excavator for half a day to clear an area to put the new container. We may also need stone and some other small expenses to get it all done. Mark Richter will talk to Dennis from Ace trailer to see if he would be willing to donate a trailer and we can investigate other options.

Special Events Committee

- No report

Old business – No Report

New Business

- A resident mentioned that army corps of engineers has come to take soil samples and told them that they will dredge the summer of 2025.
- Jenny Glass is looking for help with the luminaries and building the manger for the Xmas Pageant. Please email us and let us know who is willing to help.

Dan Bullard motioned, and Amy Bloom seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Katina Gionteris, Clerk