

Minutes of the Stony Creek Association – Executive Board Meeting April 2, 2024

Call to order: A meeting of the Stony Creek Association Executive Board was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday April 2nd, 2024 on Zoom by Mark Richter.

Present: Mark Richter – President, Harlan Fichtenholtz – Vice President (Zoom), Katina Gionteris – Clerk, Tina Burne, Mark Gaynor, Kate Waldron, Courtney Rosenberg, Brian Love – Treasurer, Amy Bloom, Matt Milano

Absent: Nick Fischer – Tax Collector, Stephen Palumbo Jr., Dan Bullard, Robin Tierney,

Public: 11

Minutes:

A motion was made by Amy Bloom and seconded by Mark Gaynor to accept the minutes to the 3/5/2024 meeting with the following modifications. All were in favor.

- Change the date in the call to order sentence to March 5th.
- In the maintenance section, the last sentence needs to be separated out. Courtney will correct during the April meeting.

Treasurer's report

- Brian Love presented the bills report for this month totaling \$1,030.30 listed below:
 - \$1,000 to Happy Day rentals deposit for tents for Stony Creek Day
 - \$30.30 to Quickbooks online
- Tina Burne motioned to pay the bills and Courtney Rosenberg seconded. All were in favor.
- Brian Love read the treasurers report for the month. We began the month with \$24,885.41 cash on hand in the checking account. We paid bills in the amount of \$1030.30 and ended the month of March with a total of \$23,855.11. Our 3 month certificate of deposit (CD) has \$10,170.98 and our 14 month CD has \$20,408.84. We have total combined assets of \$54,434.93. The 14 month CD will be rolled over into a 3 month certificate to make the money more readily available if needed.
- A motion was made by Amy Bloom and seconded by Matt Milano to forward the treasurers report for audit. All were in favor.
- Brian Love presented the budget for the 2024/2025 year. Based on current projections we are negative \$5,000. This is given that there are no projected donations in the budget for Stony Creek Day. Last year we received nearly \$7,000 in donations and sponsors for Stony Creek Day. Brian Love asked that committees review their items to make sure everything they need is included and the budget will be voted on next month.

Tax collector's report

Kate Waldron read the tax collectors report. As of 4/2/2024, the tax collector has received \$11,477.09 (99.7%) of the taxes owed. There is a remaining balance due of \$34.85.

Legal & Zoning

- Kate Waldron reported that the only property on the Zoning Board of Appeals agenda for the 4/16/2024 meeting is 11 Three Elms Rd for vertical expansion of an existing nonconforming street setback to allow an increase of an existing nonconforming structure for the construction of a two-story addition.
- There was nothing in Stony Creek on the agenda for the April 4th Planning and Zoning meeting.

Police and traffic

- Tina Burne reported that they are still trying to schedule a meeting with all the town's department heads to discuss parking and traffic issues and solution.
- Church parking: The only written agreements that the church has the SCA or any other organization for parking. A member of the public (church person) stated that the church does not allow parking during the dark hours, only during day light hours, no buses are allowed.
- Randi O'Brien, a member of the public, asked what will be done about the problem of speeding and parking and if the SCA is willing to hire a police officer to enforce the traffic and parking rules and hand out tickets.
- Unk Daros, a member of the public, stated that even in the minutes of the SCA in 1935 this same issue of parking and traffic was an issue. He agrees with hiring a police officer but states that it will not solve the problem because in Stony Creek we have businesses that do not have designated parking.
- Peter Hentschel, RTM representative, stated that he has discussed the Community Service Office (CSO) and dock master with Jamie Cosgrove suggesting that they hand out more tickets but nothing has changed. There is also a limit to the number of CSOs allowed in any given area. He suggests going back to the town and not accept that the CSO is not doing their job before we go about hiring a police officer. We could also have representatives from the SCA act as liaisons with the CSOs to check in with them about what they are doing or not doing.
- Brian Love stated that the cost to hire a police officer for 4 months on weekends during the summer season would cost approximately \$30,000.
- Members of the SCA Board plan to schedule a meeting with the police chief and a separate meeting with First Selectman Jaimie Cosgrove. Both meetings will take place before the next SCA meeting.
- Matt Milano talked about targeting specific locations and times where we should enforce traffic and parking issues based on safety.

Maintenance

- Courtney Rosenberg would like to request a total of \$1500 in funds for Bayview park maintenance including clean up the back of the park, and plant geraniums and plantings at veterans triangle.
- Courtney Rosenberg would like to request \$1250 for Darren Collins for the three pre-season, mid-season post season village maintenance services.
- The current rate of pay for Jake Palluzzi is \$20 per hour to work for approximately 2 hours per day for 7 days a week during the season. Courtney Rosenberg made a motion to increase the pay to \$22 per hour. Amy Bloom seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- Amy Bloom mentioned that many people bring their dogs into the playground. Courtney Rosenberg will follow up with Alex Palluzzi about putting no dogs allowed signs into Bayview park playground.
- We will send an email out asking residents to police our town by reminding people that they need to leash their dogs.

By-Laws Committee

Harlan Fichtenholtz reported that attorney Mednick has not review the By-Laws yet. Harlan Fichtenholtz and Amy Bloom are stepping off this committee. Linda Reed and Ted Els will remain on the committee. Mark Richter will step in as chair of the By-Laws Committee. Mark Gaynor and Brian Love will join the committee.

Harlan Fichtenholtz will circulate the current version of the ordinances.

Nominating and election committee

The five people who are up for election this year are: Tina Burne, Matt Milano, Kate Waldron, Robin Tierney and Mark Gaynor.

Town Representative Report

- Peter Hentschel reported that it is town budget season. The final vote by the RTM on the budget is May 14th. There may be a mill rate increase of about 4%.
- Peter Hentschel and Mark Richter met with the town engineer about the crosswalk from post office to veteran's triangle. They suggested extending the curb out and adding the ADA ramp. There is a drainage problem that would need to be solved. The town solution is to remove the crosswalk because it does not tie into any other sidewalks on or past the triangle/island.
- Peter Hentschel and Mark Richter will meet with the traffic commissioner to get the line markings approved.
- Dan Bullard put in a proposal for the town of Branford to look at regulation of short-term rentals. That will be discussed at the town Representative Town Committee (RTM) meeting next week and it will be referred to the rules and ordinance committee of the town for deliberation. If anyone has input, please hand in to the town rules and ordinances committee. There will be a time in the future when the town will invite people to give input.
- First Selectman Jaimie Cosgrove drafted a proposal that the town create a harbor management commission. It would have to be approved by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the town RTM before it can be done. It would regulate how we use our waterways and moorings and can have a big impact on Stony Creek.
- They discussed speed cameras with John Hoefflerle (town engineer) and it may be possible. John suggested adding a sign by the railroad bridge regarding calming down their driving.
- Speed cameras that ticket are allowed by state law. The town would need to create an ordinance as well as guidelines of use.
- They also discussed getting a speed table in front of the church. The town will not put any form of speed bumps in the town of Branford due to emergency vehicles and the noise created going over the speed table.

Stony Creek Day committee

- Stony Creek Day will be held on Saturday Sept. 7th.

Special Events Committee

- Stony Creek will have a Spring Tag Sale – Saturday April 27th 8:00 am -1:00 pm. Courtney Rosenberg will create a flyer to circulate.
- Earth Day clean up Saturday April 20th - Mark Richter will reach out to Hanna Purdy and ask if she can organize it.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- The town has contracted for the drain line from fountain to be repaired. Sandy Fischer spoke with Jaimie Cosgrove and Gary Zelinski about getting the entire fountain repaired which is a lot of work. There is a timer on the fountain. She would like to propose putting a circulator in the doggie bowl which would change the water twice a day. The work will not change the monument at all. The work will involve digging into the sidewalk and the tree would need to be removed.
 - The estimated cost for the refurbishment is a total of \$22,000 and include Nick Fischer digging and fixing the drain which is paid for by the town. Other items could include: Dig a second trench water - \$8,000; Dig and build new vault - \$5,000; Reset granite curbs \$3800; Pour new sidewalk; Recirculatory pump and other material \$2500
 - Sandy Fischer will talk with the town about what they may pay for.
 - Courtney Rosenberg proposed to do the fountain project work seconded by Tina Burne. All in favor.
- The Branford Fire Department is planning to expand by building an additional fire house on Acorn Road and hire more EMTs. These changes are due to an increase in both population in town and and increase in call volume for basic life support calls. Here is a link to the proposed plan <https://www.branfordfireplan.com/>. If can voice your support for this plan to your elected officials.

Harlan Fichtenholtz motioned, and Tina Burne seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Katina Gionteris, Clerk