

**STONY CREEK ASSOCIATION
STONY CREEK, CT
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025**

7:00 PM

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Stony Creek Association (SCA) was held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM. This meeting was held in-person in the Keyes Gallery at Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library, Thimble Islands Road, Stony Creek, CT.

Present:

Elected Officials -- President -- Dan Bullard

Treasurer -- Brian Love

Tax Collector -- Mark Richter

Executive Board Members -- Tim Barry

Louisa Cabot deCossy

Nancy Davidson

Harlan Fitzenholtz

Mark Gaynor

Matt Milano

Kate Waldron

Absent:

Executive Board Members – Amy Bloom (1); Randi O’Brien (1); Clara Pagliaro (1)

Auditors – David Bailey; Ellen Page

Public: Barbara Chesler; Ed Gagliardi; and Anthony DaRos

1. Approval of Minutes

APPROVED

Harlan Fitzenholtz moves to approve the minutes of the Stony Creek Association Meeting of July 22, 2025. Board Member Kate Waldron seconds the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously

2. Approve/Amend Agenda

APPROVED

Harlan Fitzenholtz moves to approve the agenda, as presented. Kate Waldron seconds the motion. The motion was approved unanimously

3. Post-Election Organization

a. Election of Officers

Dan Bullard explains that the Executive Board will nominate individuals from the Executive Board to serve in the positions of Vice-President and Clerk for the FY25-26.

i. Vice-President

APPROVED

Tim Barry nominates Harlan Fitzenholtz to serve as Association Vice-President. Kate Waldron seconds the motion. The motion is approved unanimously

ii. Clerk

APPROVED

Kate Waldron nominates Randi O'Brien to serve as Association Clerk. Louisa Cabot de Cossy seconds the motion. The motion is approved unanimously

b. Appointment of Secretary

APPROVED

Dan Bullard asks that Stony Creek resident Linda Reed be appointed as Association Secretary. The appointment is approved.

c. Committee Assignments (Executive Board Members and Members of the Public)

PROPOSED

The structure of the various Association Committees was discussed. Some committees, particularly special event committees, have subcommittees. In these circumstances, there is a committee chair as well as separate subcommittee meetings. When a subcommittee meets, those meeting minutes need to be submitted and approved at the next meeting.

The following Board Member committee assignments are proposed:

i. Legal & Zoning

Chair - Kate Waldron

Members -- Matt Milano and Louisa Cabot de Cossy

ii. Police & Traffic

Chair – Tim Barry

Member – Randi O’ Brien

iii. Maintenance

Chair – Clara Paglia proposed, pending her return/acceptance

Members - ?

iv. Nomination & Elections

Chair – Mark Richter

Members – Tim Barry

v. By-Laws

Chair -- Harlan Fitzenholtz

Members – Amy Bloom, Randi O’Brien, Linda Reed

vi. Special Events

Chair – Matt Milano

Members – Kate Waldron and Louisa Cabot de Cossy

Since Executive Board Members Amy Bloom, Randi O’Brien, and Clara Pagliaro are not present this evening, these committee assignments will be considered for approval at the next regular meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

vi. Stony Creek Day

not discussed

6. Initial Public Comment on Agenda Items or New Issues

Boosting Public Attendance:

Louisa Cabot de Cossy asks if a position exists on these committees for someone to post the Stony Creek Association meeting location and time to try to increase public attendance. Harlan Fitzenholtz replies that this responsibility is under the Clerk, if necessary.

Meeting Location (Keyes Gallery v. smaller conference room):

Nancy Davidson stated that the larger room – the Keyes Gallery – is more welcoming. The smaller conference room felt quite intimidating as a community member.

Remote Meeting Access:

Mark Richter spoke to the issue of using ZOOM and whether or not these spaces – Keyes Gallery and smaller conference room – can accommodate. The smaller conference room reportedly does support ZOOM. Discussion continued, asking if the Association could host meetings via ZOOM. It was suggested that the Charter permits hosting meetings via ZOOM with members in attendance remotely.

Possible Cost Share Between SCA and Library for ZOOM Remote Access

Dant Bullard explained that he has spoken with the Library Director and they do not currently have the technology to host a ZOOM meeting in the large room (Keyes Gallery), but would like to be able to do so.

The Library suggested that the Association consider splitting the cost with the Library. Estimated cost is \$2,000. This option will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Farmers' Market

Dan Bullard addressed the concerns, which are being raised by several members in the community about the number of people and the noise generated by the weekly Farmers' Market. He asked if the Charter permits having an event of this scale in the community.

- Ed Gagliardi: expressed concerns that there is not adequate parking for the volume of people. He questions whether or not the event is scheduled from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, adding that many vendors are still onsite well after that time, some parked and using the space at Bayview Park until 4:00 PM. Ed expressed concern that the amplified music is disruptive to people who live in the community. Louisa Cabot de Cossy stated that the Farmer's Market provides community involvement and is a wonderful place for young parents with children to meet others in the community. She added that it seems to be an inclusive event. She suggests that amplified music could be minimized and that the activity could be cut back to the actual, permitted hours (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM). She suggested that the matter be discussed when Clara Pagliaro is present.
- Mark Richter states that the Farmers' Market event attracts people to Stony Creek and, in doing so, brings customers to the local businesses. He noted that activities at the Church of Christ also attract a lot of people to the community.
- Ed Gagliardi: states that he has no issue with the Church activities as it has been around for 100 years.

The SCA Bylaws were consulted under Section D5(e) and D5(i), both of which refer to undue noise and unreasonable annoyance on Sundays. This issue needs further discussion with Clara at the next meeting.

- Harlan Fitzenholtz states that he believes that the bylaws can be interpreted to include the Farmers Market as an allowable event.
- Unk (Anthony) Daros: questions whether the Association supports the Farmer' Market. He suggests that the event is not under the Association's domain and should operate as a separate entity now that it is off the ground.
- Harlan Fitzenholtz explains that the Farmers' Market was approved last year and is separate from the Association.
- Ed Gagliardi: suggest that the matter as to whether or not the Farmers' Market continue be put to a public referendum. The referendum vote should be held after the public is notified and has time to attend.

7. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees

i. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Brian Love distributes and explains the report.

Payment of all bills when properly approved

APPROVED

Kate Waldron moves to pay all ills when properly approved. Louisa Cabot de Cossy seconds the motion. The motion is approved unanimously

Proposed Bond:

APPROVED

A bond in the amount of \$3,200 is needed, like last year.

Mark Richter? moves to approve the proposed bond in the amount of \$3,200. Kate Waldron seconds the motion. The motion is approved unanimously

ii. Tax Collector

Tax Collector Mark Richter states that the tax bills have been mailed out.

Proposed Increase of Tax Collector Stipend:

APPROVED

The former Tax Collector Nick Fischer chose not to take the stipend for service; however, Tax Collector Mark Richter requests that the stipend be reinstated. The previous Tax Collector stipend is believed to have been \$1,100. Tax Collector Mark Richter asks that the stipend be increased to \$2,200

Board Member

moves to increase the Tax Collector stipend to \$2,200 to be paid in June

of the fiscal year after revenue is collected. Kate Waldron seconds the motion. The matter is approved.

iii. Town Representative

No report

iv. Committee Reports

• Legal & Zoning

No report

• Police & Traffic

Holly Lane – clarify Dead End Sign

- Board Member Nancy Davidson suggests that she could make a sign as she lives on that road.

Signage at the Beach:

- Where the “load & unload” signs are posted, the signs do not specify a time limit so people are parking and just leaving their cars in these spaces. Mark Richter suggests that the signs be revised to include a 10-to-15-minute time limit.
- Board Member Matt Milano concurred.

Signage at RR Underpass

- Matt Milano states that signage is needed at the RR underpass near the Depot.
- Dan Bullard states that he has already discussed this with the Police. He also met with Gary Zelinsky about two (2) weeks ago and is waiting for a response.

Issues with kayaks launching at the beach

- Louisa Cabot deCossy mentions seeing a confrontation at the beach between members of the public with kayaks being launched at the beach. It should be clarified where the public can launch as they do not seem to know that they cannot launch from the beach.
- Mark Richter explains that it should be clear that the public cannot launch at the beach, but do it anyway. It is a safety issue,
- Unk (Anthony) Daros explains that there is a State law about launching in a swim area. He suggests that people try to say something in a friendly, community-minded way. He adds that a proposal was approved in the past to establish a launching ramp near the trolley bridge.

Lifeguards/ Police Presence

- The question of having a lifeguard or Community police presence is discussed. The boat ramp is an area under the Town's purview

• **Maintenance**

- Rich will give the hours to Bryan for reimbursement and coordinate the notes

Association Maintenance Budget

- Ed Gagliardi: asks how much the Association spends on maintenance.
- Someone notes that the current budget is \$5,500

Trash Can Outside the Post Office

- Barbara Chesler states that a new garbage can is needed outside of the Post Office,
- Mark Richter: volunteers to look into this.

Tree Trimming

- Mark Richter states that a tree at the end of Three Elms Road need to be trimmed
- Dan Bullard will follow up on this for the next meeting

• **By-Laws and Charter Review**

No report

• **Special Events/Stony Creek Day -- Road Closure**

- A mailing is to go out, announcing that the road will be closed from the Fire House to the triangle

8. New Business

• **Tree Damage Near Trolley Bridge**

- Mark Richter states that a neighbor commented that a tree was down on the trolley bridge.
- Dan Bullard the tree came down on Amtrak property during microburst; however, the Association has no authority over it.

• **4 Three Elms**

- Barbara Chesler states the property has been a construction site for nine (9) years. The lumber was recently cut up by the owners. It is behind the Post Office.

This is something that is not being addressed, but perhaps the Association can try to do something.

- Mark Richter: suggests that a complaint be filed with the Town's Blight Officer.
- Louisa Cabot deCossy: suggests that this may be a great opportunity to the Branford Land Trust to be involved, possibly with the island community about purchasing the property with the Association for public use
- Barbara Chesler: will be meeting with the Land Trust
- Matt Milano: suggests that the island association be included in that discussion
- Unk (Anthony) Daros: states that a letter be set to the Board of Selectmen to be read into the public record.
- Matt Milano offers to draft the letter.

9. Meeting adjourned

APPROVED

There being no further business, Harlan Fitzenholtz moves to adjourn. Kate Waldron seconds the motion.

The motion is approved unanimously.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:50 PM.

ATTEST:

LINDA REED,
SCERETARY