

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WARDEN AND BOARD OF BURGESSES  
THURSDAY, July 28, 2022

4 NIBANG AVENUE and VIA ZOOM

A Regular Meeting of the Warden and Board of Burgesses was held on Thursday, July 28, 2022. Notice of the meeting was posted in a timely manner on the Fenwick kiosk and on the website.

PRESENT: Warden Newt Brainard, Frank Keeney, Art Wright, Jonathan Gengras, Ann Pulver, Duby McDowell, Pam Christensen, General Manager Jeff Champion (GM), and Zoning Enforcement Officer/Land Use Administrator Marilyn Ozols (ZEO), Treasurer Bob Gay

PRESENT via ZOOM: None

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Present: Peter Brainard (Wigs), Bill Webster, Bruce Baird

Present via Zoom: Josh Wall

**1. Call to Order**

The Warden called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**2. Approval of Residents Meeting Minutes from June 30, 2022**

**A Motion was made by F. Keeney, seconded by A. Pulver, to approve the June 30, 2022 minutes.**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Open Forum for Fenwick Residents to Speak**

B. Gay raised concern about the condition of the tees on the Ryder course. Divots are not being replaced. Currently, there are no divot mix boxes on the course. F. Keeney, Park Commissioner is aware of the problem and working to address it.

B. Webster asked for clarification regarding who has jurisdiction over the Lynde Point swimming area. He expressed concern that all wheel vehicles are being used on the dunes. Another concern involved use of a golf cart style vehicle car seen going too fast, wrong way and not observing stop signs. This will be addressed with the owner.

P. Brainard (Wigs) expressed concern about the poor condition of the sidewalk leading to the pier. N. Brainard acknowledge the concern saying it would be further discussed later in the meeting.

**4. General Manager's Report**

J. Champion reviewed the items in his report:

- Pier Update: Talks and plans continue with Harbor Engineering, with the hope of making a plan in September.

- Golf Course: July 2022 revenue from daily ticket sales remains strong and will likely equal those of last year.
- Surveyor: The project to get a Borough-wide map showing proprietary underground utilities with approval of expenses not to exceed \$4250 has been moved to the fall to be part of the 2022/2023 fiscal year budget.
- Widen Sidewalk at Pier Entrance: This project is on hold, pending a decision on the placement of the gate.
- Seasonal Help: We currently have enough lifeguards until mid-August. There are currently three park monitors; this will be reduced to one by mid-August.
- Trash/Recycling Waivers: Two residents who have requested inside pick up have not signed the trash/recycling waiver. J. Champion will follow up with the residents.
- Bulletin Boards for Golf Course: Have been installed.
- LoCIP: A LoCIP: We are waiting for approval from the State of CT. The funds will be used for the Pettipaug Ave. road repair in the fall.
- Cyber Liability Insurance: Work on acquiring insurance continues. J. Champion will reach out to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities for input. N. Brainard will speak with Old Saybrook First Selectman, C. Fortuna for information.
- Grove Entrance: Plans are being made to move the Grove entrance in the fall. Planning will include coordination with and input from LPLT.
- Mugwort: Invasive mugwort and mile-a-minute vine are becoming a huge problem. Dan McGowan, Borough Environmental Staffer, will file a report soon.
- Tennis Wall: R. Gengras has provided feedback that the Tennis wall is being used. A plan is underway to determine the best material for a repair or replacement.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

B. Gay reports that, due to a few outstanding bills, there is currently no final balance number for fiscal year 2021-2022. Regardless, the Borough of Fenwick remains in good financial shape.

Bob urged the Burgesses to maintain momentum in applying for grants to support resiliency efforts in the scum beach marsh and Sequassen areas.

## **6. Memorial Policy**

The Policy and Vetting for Memorials document presented 10/8/20 was reviewed. After a lengthy discussion, the following actions will be taken: 1. A Pulver will define the possible "buckets" for donated funds (beach, tennis, golf and beautification/landscape). Additionally, the cost and placement of plaques will be researched. P. Christensen added that the use of donations for beautification/landscape might require consultation with a landscape designer. F. Keeney urged the Burgesses to consider having a plan ready for a vote in September 2022. He also stated that there are two important considerations: 1. Design element and 2. Maintenance.

## **7. Board, Commission, and Committee Reports**

- a. HDC: Pam Christensen – No report.
- b. LPLT: Pam Christensen – Meeting scheduled 8/27/22. The slate of officers will be reviewed.
- c. Concerns Committee: Pam Christensen – A survey has been sent so that a meeting can be scheduled.
- d. Commissions Coordinator: No report.
- e. Harbor Management: Jonathan Gengras – No report.
- f. ZBA: Ann Pulver – No meeting.
- g. Park Commission: Frank Keeney – Meeting held on 7/16/22. A new 2023 golf rate structure will be discussed at the fall meeting.  
Golf carts on the course add to excessive wear and tear. F. Keeney urged residents to share carts to cut down on the number of carts on the course.
- h. FIF: Art Wright – A thank you cocktail party was held on 7/4/2022 to thank donors.
- i. P&Z: Art Wright – No meeting.

## **8. Warden's Report**

N. Brainard has been in contact with Atty. Campbell Hudson, asking him to create a memo regarding Sequassen road repair and road raising. Atty. Hudson also will be consulted to clarify issues re: the Freilinghuysen property purchase.

J. Champion will reach out to Jacobson to develop a proposal for sidewalk repair.

N. Brainard also reported that Borough conservation easement infractions are on the rise. LPLT will provide a list of infractions to the Burgesses. A process for resolution will have to be developed.

An election is slated for May 2023. N. Brainard and D. McDowell are working to identify a nominating committee.

## **9. Other Business**

P. Christensen expressed concern about the esthetics of the handicapped ramp at 4 Nibang Ave. She urged the Burgesses to develop a plan that would consider the use and design of the building as a whole. J. Champion added that the building is heavily used and critical for storage. M. Ozols stated that the building needs a lot of work. She urged the Burgesses not to slow down while developing a plan. P. Christensen offered to begin work on a plan.

Resiliency: ZEO Marilyn Ozols continues to attend meetings partnered with Old Saybrook beach associations. Separately, the Borough of Fenwick, Old Saybrook, Westbrook, and Clinton have applied for a grant and are working to develop a resiliency plan that will also include concept plans and cost estimates for the priority projects in each municipality in order to enable future grant applications. N. Brainard requested that this be an item on every Burgess agenda.

## **10. Next Meeting**

Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 4 Nibang Ave and via Zoom.

## **11. Burgess Comments**

None

## **12. Adjournment**

**There being no further business, a Motion was made by J. Gengras, seconded by P. Christensen, to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 pm.**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectively Submitted,

Nancy Marikar, Clerk