

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, July 9, 2019** in the Old Court Room at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Maher called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Warden Jay Maher, Second Senior Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Burgess Chris Gardner, Burgess Bill Lucas, Burgess Bill Eder, Burgess Jim Gaston, Burgess Anthony Baiad, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Treasurer Paula Brinkman and Clerk Ann Scaia.

Absent: Tree Warden Rob McCulloch

Also Present: Nine members of the public.

Burgess Baiad made a motion to accept the June 11, 2019 regular meeting minutes,
seconded by Burgess Gaston. Motion passed.

Public Participation:

Jane Sharpe and Peg Townsend, of the Town & Country Garden Club, presented the plans and progress of Island #2 (at the intersection of Glover Avenue and Queen Street). Please see attached for details.

The following attendees spoke – Ted Welsh, of 4 King Street; Bob Geckle, of 35 Queen Street; Lydon Thomas, of 22 Juniper Road; Lisa Floros, of 32 Queen Street; Laura and Kenneth Lerman, of 55 Main Street; and Ken Kopsco, of 4 Overlook Drive. There was a general discussion for the need of sidewalks throughout the Borough, including Queen Street, and further discussion about creating an ad hoc planning committee. This topic will be on the agenda for the August Borough Regular Meeting.

Warden's Report: Warden Maher opened discussion to consider Second Senior Burgess Kenyon as the new Senior Burgess.

Burgess Gaston made a motion for Betsey Kenyon to assume the title of Senior Burgess
seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Burgess Gaston made a motion for Chris Gardner to assume the title of Second Senior Burgess
seconded by Second Senior Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

They will both be sworn in after the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

Warden Maher was approached by borough resident, Dana Smith, regarding the possibility of a sidewalk from the monument island up to Currituck Road on the northeast side of Main Street. He conveyed to Ms. Smith he would assess the length and approximate cost. Warden Maher

reported the length to be 400 linear feet which is approximately 2,000 sq. feet. Considering it would be a stamped concrete or better the sidewalk would cost approximately \$40,000-50,000.

Tree Warden's Report: Due to health issues, Tree Warden McCulloch conveyed via email the following update: Trees are slated for removal on West Street, Mt. Pleasant Road, Lincoln Drive and one possibly on Borough Lane. The removal of stumps should be completed by late July/early August. He is working on a more finalized tree planting list to present at the August Borough meeting.

Tax Collector's Report: Tax Collector Enriquez reported the following for June 2019 (End of Fiscal Year): Total Taxes Due for the List of 2017: \$225,836.95; Current Taxes: \$224,684.33; Back Taxes: (\$217.50); Interest: \$766.17; Liens & Fees: \$144.00. Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$225,380.83. Current Taxes Collected: \$224,302.76 representing 99.11%.

Burgess Gaston made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for June 2019,
seconded by Burgess Eder and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: The June 2019 report presents: A deposit of \$96.00 was made from the Borough Zoning Office. A deposit of \$330.83 was made from Tax Collector, Jodie Enriquez. A deposit of \$.10 was made for miscellaneous property tax. A transfer of \$25,500.00 was made to cover last month's invoicing. Interest on the 12 mo. CD was \$112.44 making a total of \$76,913.63.

Burgess Gaston made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for June 2019, seconded by Burgess Gardner and unanimously approved.

The following motions are transfers for the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget.

Burgess Gaston made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion and potential action on transferring \$746.11 from Auxillary Help to Streets and Parks, seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Burgess Gaston made a motion to transfer \$746.11 from Auxillary Help to Street and Parks, seconded by Second Senior Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Burgess Gaston made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion and potential action on transferring \$2,847.88 from Auxillary Help to Fire Hydrants, seconded by Burgess Eder and unanimously approved.

Burgess Gaston made a motion to transfer \$2,847.88 from Auxillary Help to Fire Hydrants, seconded by Burgess Gardner and unanimously approved.

Zoning Officer's Report: Warden Maher reported the MOU signed and completed by Selectman Rosenthal, Rob Sibley and Warden Maher. Zoning Officer Rob Sibley introduced himself as the new Borough Zoning Officer. He was sworn in by Clerk Ann Scaia prior to this meeting. Zoning Officer Sibley had nothing to report as last months of Borough Zoning and Borough Zoning Board of Appeals meetings were cancelled.

Historic District: Second Senior Burgess Kenyon had nothing new to report. Warden Maher reported he cleaned up and re-instated the Historic District sign at Ram's Pasture.

Sidewalks: Warden Maher contacted another contractor to review the scope in pricing allowance to ensure the original estimate is realistic. It was concluded Warden Maher's original estimate of \$150,000 is within reason for the design and construction of the proposed Rt. 302 sidewalk.

Streets & Parks: Warden Maher confirmed with Supreme Green the area being mowed was the approved upon immediate area around the bench, not the 3-acre parcel of land questioned during the June Borough meeting. Second Senior Burgess Kenyon will investigate the creation of Borough welcoming signage and report her findings at the next borough meeting. Burgess Gardner has identified Paul Bastian, a pole climber who has a history working on the flagpole, is willing to prep and paint the flagpole. Burgess Gardner will present the costs associated with renovating the flagpole at the August Borough meeting. How this will be funded will also be discussed at the August Borough meeting. Burgess Gardner also reported he now has the capability to lower the flag at the Soldiers and Sailors monument as needed.

New Business: Burgess Eder mentioned Aquarion Water Company of CT will be running a feeder line from the new water main to where the condos are being built on Mt. Pleasant Road per the request of the Toll Brothers.

Old Business: There was nothing new to report.

Public Participation: None.

The regular meeting of the Board of Burgesses will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 7:30p.m. in the Old Court Room in Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT.

There being no further business, Burgess Gaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Scaia
Borough Clerk

NEWTOWN BOROUGH TAX

END OF FISCAL YEAR - JUNE 2019

TOTAL TAXES DUE FOR GRAND LIST 2017:	\$226,326.41
LAWFUL CORRECTIONS:	
INCREASE	\$32.98
DECREASE	<u>-\$522.44</u>
TAXES COLLECTABLE:	\$225,836.95

AMOUNTS COLLECTED TO DATE:

CURRENT TAX:	\$224,684.33
BACK TAX	\$217.50
INTEREST:	\$766.17
LIENS & FEES:	<u>\$144.00</u>
TOTAL COLLECTED TO DATE:	\$225,812.00

TOTAL SUBMITTED TO TREASURER TO DATE:	\$225,380.83
REFUND GIVEN FROM CURRENT YR TAX	\$411.69
REFUND GIVEN DUE FROM PRIOR YR	<u>\$19.48</u>
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$225,812.00

TAX COLLECTION SUMMARY:

GL 2017	TAXES COLLECTED	\$224,684.33	
	TAXES SUSPENDED	\$24.54	
	TRANSFERS	\$5.58	
	REFUNDS	<u>-\$411.69</u>	
	TOTAL CURRENT TAX COLLECTED	\$224,302.76	99.11%
	TAXES OUTSTANDING	\$1,534.19	0.68%
	OVERPAYMENTS	<u>37.08</u>	
	TOTAL TAX DUE GL 2016	\$1,571.27	

NOTE:

BACK TAXES OUTSTANDING FOR LIST 2016 AND PRIOR:	\$1,046.60
	\$1,046.60
CREDIT FROM PRIOR YEARS	<u>\$149.32</u>
	\$1,195.92
REFUND FROM PRIOR YEARS	<u>-19.48</u>

DATE:
7-Jun-19

SIGN: 
BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR

Borough of Newtown
Newtown, CT
Monthly Treasurer's Report
For month ending June 30, 2019
END FISCAL YEAR 2018-19

Beginning Balance (June 1, 2019) \$596,209.67

OPERATING ACCOUNT (#673)

Income (Deposits)

Date	Description	Amount
June 13,2019	Tax Collector (YTD:\$225,380.83)	\$330.83
June 13,2019	BZE	\$96.00
June 13,2019	AT&T Property Tax refund	\$0.10

Interest income (June 30, 2019) \$22.37

Total income \$449.30

Expenses (checks written)

Date	Payable To	Description	Amount
June 11, 2019``	Treasurer's Acct (331)	check #274	\$23,000.00
June 11, 2019``	Treasurer's Acct (331)	check #275	\$2,500.00

Ending Cash Balance (June 30, 2019) \$571,158.97

Outstanding Checks	Payable To	Description	Amount
Total Outstanding Checks			\$0.00

RECONCILED BANK BALANCE (June 30, 2019) \$571,158.97

12 MONTH CD ACCOUNT (#814)

Matures 2/28/2020	
Beginning Balance (Jur begin 6/1/19)	\$76,801.19

Interest income (June 30, 2019)	interest 1.80 APY	\$112.44
TOTAL		\$76,913.63

Respectfully submitted on July 9, 2019



PLANTING CONCEPTS FOR ISLAND TWO

Queen Street & Glover Avenue
Newtown, Connecticut

Town & Country Garden Club of Newtown

Newtown, Connecticut

Club President: Judith Beers, jbeers46@gmail.com

Island Two Co-Chairs: Peg Townsend, pegtownsend@yahoo.com

Jane Sharpe, jane@design-ltd.com

Founded in 1964, the Town & Country Garden Club focuses on conservation, horticulture and the artistic use of plant material. Membership includes all ages and varies from 45 to 60 participants. The club works with many community groups, assisting with public, holiday and civic projects. Its biggest annual project is to plant and maintain three large traffic islands in the center of Newtown. Island Two (below) is one of these islands. It is being redesigned to (1) include native plants to reduce the need for supplemental water, (2) blend, and in some cases, partially hide, the various guide wires, poles and signs, (3) add an artistic element and focal point in the town traffic pattern at Queen St. and Glover Ave.



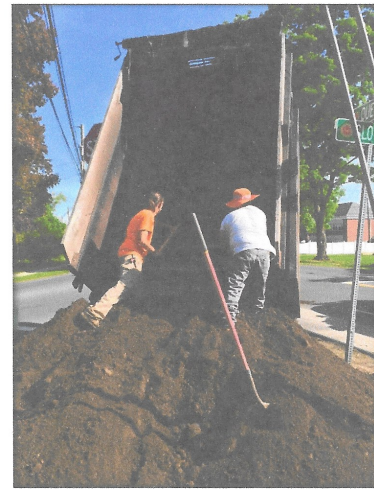
ISLAND TWO: April 2019 – Grass has been removed, shrubs trimmed, bench stripped.



ISLAND TWO: May 2019 – (Same view) Topsoil added, bench moved, future art "circle" staked.



ISLAND TWO: May – Bench in new position to view the annual Labor Day Parade.



MAY – Adding sixteen yards of topsoil.

NEXT STEPS: Stain bench, plant shrubs and ground covers, add stone path and pedestal for artwork.

Ethan Currier, Stone Sculptor

Newtown, CT and Bainbridge Island, WA
Ethan@ethancurrier.com

Ethan Currier is a self-taught artist who has been creating sculptures out of stone since 2001. He is the son of Tim Currier, owner of Sticks & Stones Farm, a 60-acre farm and unique natural learning center in Newtown, CT. He spent his childhood and young adult years immersed in nature, living on boats and traveling around the world. Early on, he learned to work with his hands using basic materials.

Today Ethan is a recognized artist with sculptures in private collections and public spaces in more than 20 countries. His sculptures are rocks brought to life by way of rods and fixative, mostly in mid-point scale. His range of work includes -- at one end -- a 6,000-pound granite stegosaurus that resides along a Connecticut road, and at the other, a series of granite puzzles and candle holders in river rock.



"People develop their own interpretation and therefore their own relationship to what they see in my art. People are intrigued by stone that has been cut up and reconnected in an artful way."

Ethan Currier

Ethan creates pieces, much like puzzles, and often assembles them on site. He hand-gathers most of his stones, sometimes heading into the woods, sometimes into riverbeds—asking permission when necessary. For a set of pieces completed in Spain, he commandeered an old granite countertop that someone had dumped outside. For Seaside Park in Bridgeport, CT he created an 18-ft tall figure, in a yoga tree-pose, from five large granite stones that once were part of Bridgeport's railroad infrastructure.

Recently he began spending time in the Pacific Northwest and created a studio on Bainbridge Island, WA. Ethan's art is also displayed throughout the grounds at his family home, in Newtown, CT. He structures his life so that sculpture-making is *concentrated*. He travels and then returns to his dad's farm to build and sell, then travels some more.

According to Ethan; *The benefits of a stone sculpture include:*

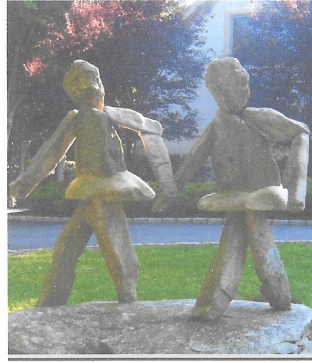
- Zero maintenance after the installation.
- 100's of years of viewing, becoming more finished as it ages.
- It weathers in place, enhanced by moss and lichen

For Island Two, Ethan plans to use a large granite boulder, cut into geometric pieces that fit back together creating an abstract piece of art. This abstract puzzle-style sculpture would be secured to a base/pedestal. For the past eight years, Ethan has been refining puzzle-style sculptures and no two sculptures are the same. These have become his favorite.

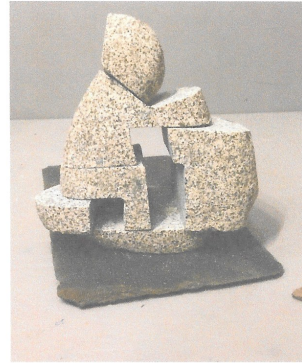
A Selection of Sculptures by Ethan Currier



ABSTRACT – Unique stone sculpture provides tranquility in an oriental water garden.



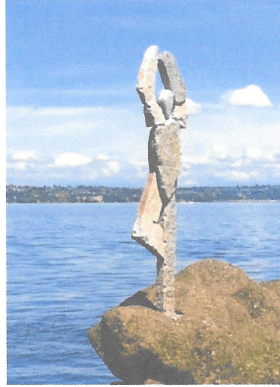
BALLERINAS – Twin girls, with twirling skirts, were originally carved from the same rock.



SCRIBE – Intricately-cut river rock art, often made into puzzles, are typical of his small art.



HORSE – Ethan creates many animal life sculptures, from horses to a stone hippopotamus.



BLAKELY MAN – The 12-foot man in a yoga pose is on a remote outcropping in Bainbridge Island, WA.



STEGOSAURUS – This 6,000-pound dinosaur is a landmark on a Connecticut roadside.

Plot Plan for Island Two

Queen Street and Glover Avenue Traffic Island

Newtown, Connecticut

For more than two decades, the Town & Country Garden Club of Newtown has planted and maintained the town's three traffic islands in the center of town. The triangle turn-about, centered on Queen Street and Glover Avenue is 64 feet on all sides. Previously, it was a bucolic, but uninteresting, plot of land – mostly filled with grass and a few shrubs.

The redesign will create a naturalized woodland scene, with seasonal color and interest. Shrubs will be kept low to retain traffic sightlines. Groundcover will eliminate the need for mowing and minimize watering. The existing bench has been moved to make it more accessible to residents for the annual Labor Day Parade.

The highlight of the island will be an art feature by a local artisan, set in a new circular site and centered on a stone pedestal. The stone sculpture will provide a sense of imagination, wonder and beauty for those who view it.

