

**Stoneham Select Board  
Remote Meeting  
Tuesday, January 4, 2022  
7:00 p.m.**

**Open Session (Remote Access)**

**Members Present:** Heidi Bilbo, George Seibold, David Pignone, Raymie Parker

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Dennis Sheehan

**Call to Order:** Bilbo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (To view this meeting in its entirety go to Stoneham TV on Demand available from the Town's homepage at [www.stoneham-ma.gov](http://www.stoneham-ma.gov))

Bilbo took a moment of personal privilege to recognize the passing of Frank Pignone, former Select Board member, and David Visocchi, DPW mechanic.

**Agenda Item 1: Open Meeting** Bilbo opened the remote meeting with roll call attendance.

**Agenda Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Item 3: Citizens' Comments** No comments were received.

**Agenda Item 4: COVID 19 Update** Erin Hull stated that the Town is dealing with a surge of 561 active cases. She stated that there are less hospitalizations and deaths, but the variant still required vigilance. Hull stated that guidance and responsiveness are changing quickly and that the Board of Health is meeting tomorrow evening to discuss mask recommendations. She concluded by discussing current mask and quarantine protocols.

Parker asked how we can know the actual numbers if at home testing is increasing. Hull stated that there is no way to have a handle on community impact or know the real numbers because of at home testing. Pignone asked about the efficacy of masking. Hull stated the KN95 masks are the only masks that really work in a public setting, but that any covering helps reduce viral exposure. Seibold asked whether the new 5 day quarantine is dependent on vaccination status. Hull stated that the 5 day quarantine is not dependent upon vaccination status and that it is really reliant on symptom resolution.

**Agenda Item 5: Allocate ARPA funds toward Public Health Response** Sheehan stated that the Town has set a process to request ARPA funding consideration. The Board of Health, however, would like to request immediate funding for the purchase of rapid tests and other COVID responsive items/measures. Sheehan continued that the Board has requested \$200,000, which they would have access through an account to address related needs over time. He stated that once we pass the surge, the allocation of the remainder of the funds can be addressed. Bilbo

asked if the money is available. Sheehan stated that the Town has access to all of the ARPA funds. Parker stated that it is unfair that the Baker administration gave some municipalities test kits and is requiring others to purchase the kits with ARPA funds. Parker moved to approve \$200,000 in ARPA funds for the Board of Health. Seibold seconded the motion.

Pignone agreed with Parker's comments and asked if we could plan for the appropriate use of any remaining funds. Sheehan stated that they can be directed back to other ARPA eligible projects and the Board can ask for an update in the spending balance.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Heidi Bilbo  
George Seibold  
David Pignone  
Raymie Parker

Motion Passes (4-0)

**Agenda Item 6: Subcommittee Policy Review and Discussion** Bilbo stated that this is the first reading of changes to the Board's subcommittee policy. Bilbo stated that she would like to strike the language that puts a limit of one year on subcommittees. Pignone agreed stating that he would like to strike that language and evaluate each subcommittee after one year.

With respect to MacNeill's suggested subcommittee to research and document historic landmarks, Parker stated that she liked the idea of working with other committees to create a way to reference the Town's landmarks. Bilbo stated that she wondered if some of the suggested tasks were already part of another committee's mission and would like additional context. Seibold stated that he loved the idea of an app directing residents to landmarks.

Parker stated that her suggested subcommittees to review site plan approval, outdoor seating, and bylaw review, are important to get underway quickly as Town Meeting will be here soon. Bilbo stated that she would like to have a preliminary conversation with Town Counsel and other Board Chairs before the Board creates a subcommittee. Bilbo requested that Sheehan set up the preliminary meeting before the Board's next meeting. Parker also discussed setting up a summit of all boards and committees to discuss the direction of the Town. Parker stated that she would add detail to her proposal.

Bilbo discussed the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee that she proposed. Seibold stated that he is uncomfortable with the social media piece. Bilbo stated that her goal is to generate more interest and deliver more information. Bilbo stated she would make edits for the next meeting.

**Agenda Item 7: Accept Donation to Fire Department: Cummings Community Giving** Seibold moved to accept a \$1000 donation to the fire department from Cummings Community Giving in memory of Leon Curley. Parker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Heidi Bilbo  
George Seibold  
David Pignone  
Raymie Parker

Motion Passes (4-0)

**Agenda Item 8: High School Building Project Update** Sheehan stated that on January 15, 2022, we will go out to bid on the bond for the new high school. He stated that Paulette Gerry will be at a future meeting to give the Board details of the borrowing.

**Agenda Item 9: Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School** Sheehan stated that Maria Sagarino is making preparations for the special election on January 25, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to determine whether the vocational school will be built.

**Agenda Item 10: Town Administrator's Report – Dennis Sheehan** Sheehan stated that the Town maintained its Standard and Poor's AA+ rating. He stated that OPEB liability and the debt produced as a result of the high school building project were some of the reasons cited by the evaluators as to why they did not increase the Town's rating. He stated that the ARPA survey is still on line for any resident with an idea about how to use the ARPA funds and that he will report to the Board at the next meeting as to how many residents took the survey. Sheehan continued that this week is Christmas tree curbside pick-up and that there is a vaccination clinic at the senior center tomorrow.

**Agenda Item 11: Non-Deliberative Announcements and Scheduling** Parker wanted to remember Martin Luther King Day and stated that there is no local programming this year, but there are many options for online programming. She also stated that the outdoor rink is not yet frozen. Seibold wished everyone a happy New Year.

**Agenda Item 12: Adjourn Select Board** Pignone moved to adjourn. Seibold seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Heidi Bilbo  
George Seibold  
David Pignone  
Raymie Parker

Motion Passes (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Dava Feltch Kilbride, Office Manager

