

**Stoneham Select Board
Open Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
7:00 p.m.**

Open Session

Members Present: Raymie Parker – Chair, Timothy Waitkevitch – Vice Chair, Heidi Bilbo – Clerk,

Also Present: Town Administrator Dennis Sheehan

Document List: Arbor Day Proclamation; Minutes dated 3/11/25; Packet from Memorial Day Committee; Rendering of plaque for the unknown ; Eversource application for grant of location; Packet for grant of location; Site plan for Main and Minot Street grant of location; Department Review for grant of location; Application for Special One Day License submitted by Butlers and Bard; Application for Special One Day License submitted by Zoo New England; Detail of Sound-Transparent Donation; Sapphire Award nomination form.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order: Parker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3: Arbor Day: Waitkevitch read a proclamation for Arbor Day.

Agenda Item 4: Citizens' Comments Ryan Foreman, 12 Windsor Road, Thanked the Select Board for its work in preparing for the override vote. He stated that a lot of residents are coming together to make informed decisions.

Agenda Item 5: Revolutionary War Commemoration/Old Burying Ground Update Dolly Wilson, Chair of the Historical Commission, gave the following updates: 1. The Commission did not receive the grant from the State Historic Commission in inventory historic spaces in Stoneham; 2. Ground penetrating radar is scheduled in the Old Burying Ground to search for soil disturbances; 3. The Commission is working on the wall repair in front of the Old Burying Ground; 4. The memorial for the unknown buried in the Old Burying Ground is being finalized; 5. The 1975 Revolutionary War memorial in the Old Burying Ground is being replaced and the Commission will be fundraising; 6. The Commission and the Historical Society are putting on a series of events commemorating the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War.

Agenda Item 6: Memorial Day events and Street Closings/Revolutionary War Memorial Plaque/Vietnam Corner Monuments Maureen Buckley, Chair of the Memorial Day Committee and War Memorial Committee, gave the following updates: 1. The Revolutionary

War Memorial will be completed by the end of the summer; 2. The George Hall Memorial needs to be moved. There will be a dedication in 2026 as part of the pool rededication with the Boys and Girls Club; 3. The War Memorial Committee will be installing 6 street corner signs for the residents killed in Vietnam; 4. For Memorial Day the Committee is seeking permission to hold a parade on 5/26 at 10:00 a.m. beginning on Elm Street and proceeding down Main Street. Earlier in the day the Committee will visit cemeteries. She would also like to decorate the gazebo for the month of July in conjunction with the 300th Committee. Bilbo moved to approve the proposed parade route with minor modifications from public safety. Seibold seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Bilbo left the hearing room.

Agenda Item 7: Eversource Grant of Location – Main and Minot Streets Waitkevitch read the Grant of Location notice. Jackie Duffy appeared for Eversource stating that Eversource wants to install 61 feet of conduit to provide service to 381 Main Street. The work will take one day. They are willing to do it day or night at the preference of the Town and public safety. Sheehan directed Duffy to reach out to Brett or himself to coordinate the work with police. Seibold moved to approve the Grant of Location. Waitkevitch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Raymie Parker
Timothy Waitkevitch
George Seibold

Motion Passes (3-0)

Bilbo returned to the hearing room.

Waitkevitch moved to enter into Liquor Licensing Authority to return to the Select Board. Seibold seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Raymie Parker
Timothy Waitkevitch
Heidi Bilbo
George Seibold

Motion Passes (4-0)

Agenda Item 8: Special One Day License/Butlers and Bars Parker asked Kilbride if the application was complete and in order. Kilbride responded that the application was complete, the Chief signed off of the event, and that the event has been held annually with no incident. Bilbo

moved to approve the one day license to include the recommendations of the Chief of Police. Waitkevitch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Raymie Parker
Timothy Waitkevitch
Heidi Bilbo
George Seibold

Motion Passes (4-0)

Agenda Item 9: Special One Day License/Zoo New England Sarah Ferber appeared for Zoo New England stating that they are planning a donor event for 5/8/25. Waitkevitch moved to approve the one day license to include the recommendation of the Chief. Bilbo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Raymie Parker
Timothy Waitkevitch
Heidi Bilbo
George Seibold

Motion Passes (4-0)

Waitkevitch moved to return to the Select Board. Seibold seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

Raymie Parker
Timothy Waitkevitch
Heidi Bilbo
George Seibold

Motion Passes (4-0)

Agenda Item 10: Body-Worn Cameras Police Chief James O'Connor stated that he was excited for and proud of both the Town and department to announce that body-worn cameras went live last Monday. The cameras will be worn 2 hours a day and record audio and visual footage of interactions with residents. He stated that the program speaks volumes of Sheehan's commitment to the force and the importance of transparency. He thanked the Healy administration, Sheehan, the Select Board, both unions, Lt. Apalakis, Lt. Thistle, Lt. Calotte, Sgt. DeCroto, Sgt. Newall, Erin Sinclair stating that he is super proud of the collective effort.

Parker stated that she is pleased that the cameras are finally online and asked about storage. O'Connor stated that storage is included in the grant for 5 years. He stated that the cameras will be replaced in 3 years as part of the grant. He stated that storage for years 6-10 will be 20-30k and will need to be part of the operating budget or a capital project. Seibold and Waitkevitch noted the huge adjustment and stated that they are happy that this project came to fruition.

Agenda Item 11: Approve Donation – Sound-Transparent Curtains Sheehan stated that an anonymous donor, through the Organ Society, donated \$3662 to replace the curtains in front of the organ pipes in the auditorium. Seibold moved to accept the donation for \$3662 with thanks to the anonymous donor. Waitkevitch seconded the motion. Voted unanimously. Parker instructed Kilbride to send a note of thanks to the donor if possible.

Agenda Item 12: Approve Minutes Bilbo moved to approve the minutes from 3/11/25. Waitkevitch seconded the motion. Voted unanimously with Seibold abstaining.

Agenda Item 13: Override Discussion Sheehan stated that the Clerk's office is doing an outstanding job getting prepped for the election. Parker stated that the Board directed Sheehan to put together a flyer of simplified information on the override and it is available on the website for review. Bilbo urged residents to vote on 4/1/25.

Agenda Item 14: High School Building Project Update Sheehan showed the Board pictures of the new bleachers, south field lights, site preparation for field installation, and drainage pipes being installed. Parker stated that a quote was selected for the dedication plaque as well as a location.

Agenda Item 15: Town Election: 4/1/25 Parker stated that the town election is taking place on 4/1/25 and that there are numerous names on the ballot as well as the override question. She encouraged all residents to vote. Parker took a moment of personal privilege to thank Bilbo and Seibold for their service. Bilbo and Seibold made brief statements. Sheehan thanked Betty Chu Pryor for her service to the School Committee.

Agenda Item 16: Town Administrator's Report Sheehan stated that he is working with Kilbride and Robert Galvin on preparation for Town Meeting. He stated that there is a baseball parade on 4/12/25, and that no street closings are required. Sheehan stated that he attended a legislative breakfast with Mystic Valley Elder Services. He stated that they are monitoring changes in Federal and State funding and continue to be concerned about loss of service and programs.

Agenda Item 17: Non-Deliberative Announcements and Scheduling Seibold stated that he continues to hear anger and frustration regarding a particular department and that he continues to stress the matter with Sheehan. Parker announced the opening of the Sapphire Award nominations on 4/15/25.

Agenda Item 18: Adjourn Waitkevitch moved to adjourn. Bilbo seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dava Feltch Kilbride, Office Manager