

Stoneham Finance & Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, April 3, 2023 - 7:00 pm
Town Hall Hearing Room

Attendees:

Tim Waitkevitch, Chair
Cory Mashburn, Vice Chair
Andrew Harmon, Secretary

Jen Gray Ed Hurley
Jeffrey Moyer Wendy Smith

Absent: Julieanne Bovat, Sachin Joshi, Mike Memmolo

Guests:

Anthony DiDonato - Petitioner of Article #19
Marcia Wengen - Petitioner of Article #20
Charles Houghton - Attorney for Petitioner of Articles #7-8
Frank Vallarelli - Chair of Stoneham Planning Board
Maria Sagarino - Town Clerk

Agenda:

1. Meeting Minutes
2. May Town Meeting Warrant Review
 - a. Article 19 w Anthony DiDonato
 - b. Article 20 w Marcia Wengen
 - c. Articles 7 & 8 w Charles Houghton
 - d. Articles 5 & 6 w Frank Vallarelli
 - e. Recommendations
3. Discussion of Water and Sewer Public Hearing
4. Updates
 - a. Capital
 - b. School Building Committee
 - c. Subcommittees
5. Other Business - Non Deliberative
6. Adjournment

Minutes:

The Finance & Advisory Board Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Board Chair began the meeting with Agenda Item #1. The Board reviewed meeting minutes from March 6, 2023. Mr. Mashburn introduced a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Smith seconded; all in favor.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #2. Mr. Waitkevitch introduced Mr. DiDonato who provided the Board with a description of his citizen's petition (Article #19). The Article is an effort to ban the commercial use of leaf blowers in the Town of Stoneham. Mr. DiDonato explained the environmental hazard of gasoline-powered leaf blower use. He also explained the noise pollution created by the devices.

Ms. Smith wanted to clarify that the Article would ban commercial use of 'two-stroke' leaf blowers and not 'four-stroke' leaf blowers. Mr. DiDonato confirmed. Mr. Hurley asked for the definition of a commercial use and Mr. DiDonato clarified that it would mean anyone hired by another person to blow leaves. Mr. Moyer asked whether the petitioner had consulted with the Police department about enforcement (the Article suggests a schedule of fines for offenses). Mr. DiDonato explained that enforcement would rely on investigation of citizen complaints.

The Board then thanked the petitioner. Mr. Waitkevitch then introduced Ms. Wengen to speak to her citizen's petition (Article #20). The Article is meant to ban dogs from all cemeteries in Town. She explained that many surrounding cities and towns have similar ordinances in place. Mr. Hurley asked whether this would affect private cemeteries like St Patrick's. Ms. Wengen replied that it was intended to include private cemeteries. Ms. Gray asked whether Ms. Wengen had consulted with the Police and Animal Control about the potential impact of the Article. Ms. Wengen mentioned that she asked the Police Chief (McIntyre) whether he would enforce the law if passed and he said that he would. The Board then thanked the petitioner for her participation.

Mr. Waitkevitch then invited Mr. Houghton to speak to Articles #7 & 8. Mr. Houghton then explained the purpose of Article #7. The Boys & Girls Club of Stoneham and Wakefield owns a parcel of land on Dale Court. They would like the zoning on the parcel changed from 'Residential' to 'Recreational'. The Board understood the purpose and reasoning; there were no questions. Mr. Houghton then spoke to Article #8. He explained that his client is developing a multi-unit project in Rockville Park. The developer has bought two parcels that abut the original development parcel and would like to rezone them to incorporate them into the project. Mr. Houghton noted that this project would bring additional tax revenue to the Town. He compared the development to 48 Executive Drive. The average assessed value of those units is \$650K. With 42 units, factoring the tax rate on a \$650K assessment, this would be substantial additional tax revenue. Ms. Gray asked about affordable units and Mr. Houghton responded that there would be 6 affordable units. The Board then thanked Mr. Houghton and he exited.

Mr. Waitkevitch then invited Mr. Vallarelli to speak about Articles #5 & 6. He explained the purpose of Article #5. The Planning Board would like to add an Associate member. He articulated that the Board is looking to avoid an ability of the Board to vote on items before it due

to members needing to recuse themselves. The Associate member would be able to step in for those instances. Ms. Gray asked why the Planning Board is seeking a 3 year term and not 5 years (elected members of the Planning Board serve 5 year terms). Mr. Vallarelli noted that the 3 year term would help encourage candidates to participate. Mr. Hurley asked whether the Associate member would have the same powers as an elected member. Mr. Vallarelli clarified that the Associate member would only be asked to vote on Special Permits. Mr. Vallarelli then explained the purpose of Article #6. Several errors were made on the 2018 survey map of the Town. This Article would correct those errors. The Board then thanked Mr. Vallarelli and he exited the meeting.

The Board then continued the discussion about Article #6. Town Clerk Maria Sagarino arrived at the meeting to discuss the events leading to the changes needed on Article #6. The Board then began its recommendation votes on the remaining Articles. Ms. Smith then introduced a motion for favorable action on Article #6. Ms. Gray seconded; all in favor. The Board then composed a description for Town Meeting. Mr. Harmon introduced a motion for favorable action on Article #5. Mr. Mashburn seconded; all in favor. The Board then composed a description for Town Meeting.

Mr. Harmon introduced a motion for favorable action on Article #7. Mr. Hurley seconded; all in favor. Mr. Harmon introduced a motion for favorable action on Article #8. Ms. Gray seconded; all in favor. The Board then wrote recommendations for both Articles. Mr. Moyer introduced a motion for no action on Article #19. Mr. Harmon seconded; all in favor. Mr. Moyer introduced a motion for no action on Article #20. Mr. Hurley seconded; all in favor.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #3. Mr. Waitkevitch discussed timing and logistics of the next Board meeting/Water and Sewer Public Hearing.

Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #4. Mr. Mashburn updated the Board on the School Building Committee. He explained that construction continued on schedule and on budget. Board Chair then moved discussion to Agenda Item #5. Ms. Smith encouraged everyone to vote in the Town Election. Mr. Moyer introduced a motion to adjourn. Mr. Harmon seconded; all in favor.