

Stoneham Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting of May 12, 2015

Chairman Thomas Boussy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectwoman Caroline Colarusso, Selectman John F. DePinto, Selectwoman Ann Marie O’Neill, Selectman Frank Vallarelli, Town Administrator David Ragucci and Town Counsel William H. Solomon.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Boussy explains that due to time they postponed Agenda Items #2 and #3.

Zoo New England/O’Neill (Time 1:02-13:11 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Cynthia Mead was present to represent the Stone Zoo and talk about the programs available such as school age children free with classroom entry, Zoo programs meet STEM curriculum, Science Ed, summer camp, before/after care during summer camp, summer/holiday events. Cynthia Mead stated that there are Library passes available, community group passes and discounts available. Chairman Boussy states that they are starting pop up events in the Common and would love to see the Zoo participate. Selectwoman O’Neill thanks Cynthia Mead for coming and really appreciates her time. Selectwoman O’Neill echoes what Chairman Boussy states the more that we can cross promote the better. Selectwoman O’Neill states the Zoo is a great branding opportunity for Stoneham and would like to see better signage in Town. Cynthia Mead states she is working closely with Senator Lewis and Representative Day. They have been great. Selectman Vallarelli asks how their budget is for next year. Cynthia Mead states it was passed by the House and the Senate. She states they would like to change the number when it is in front of the Conference Committee and at that point would love the support of the Town. Chairman Boussy discusses transportation issue around the Zoo. Selectwoman Colarusso asks where there was a difference in their budget. Cynthia Mead explains that that is a complicated question. She explains their funding comes from two different sources. From one source in the operating budget the House was increased but the Senate was level funded. Cynthia Mead also states that they have updated their website and would like everyone to check it out. Cynthia Mead would like to pay the Town a compliment as a resident. She really appreciated the fact that the Town did a great job with snow removal this year and she would like to say Thank You.

Budget Discussion (Time 13:12-136:11 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Chairman Boussy states that the Finance and Advisory Board brought in the Northborough Town Administrator and their budget is the blue print budget the Board would like to see. Chairman Boussy shows the Northborough Budget. Chairman Boussy explains the big question was on the water rates. There was a discussion on this topic. There was a discussion on Water & Sewer Enterprise Accounts. Chairman Boussy states there are too many unanswered questions to approve this budget or raise the water rates. Chairman Boussy states he feels the School Committee was a great budget. Chairman Boussy explains the frustration on how they are receiving the information they request from Department Heads. Selectwoman Colarusso understands the frustration of the School Committee and clarifies the Board of Selectmen are working towards changing the way things are done so this frustration will be eliminated. Dr. Les Olson Superintendent of School was present to answer questions from the Board of Selectmen along with Shelly Macneill and David Maurer. Chairman Boussy states the three major issues in passing this budget are the purchase of the DPW trucks, the non-hiring of Police Officers and the water rates. Selectwoman O’Neill states that they have had all department heads in for updates and none have said we have enough staffing and our budget is too big. She states they are working hard to bring in commercial business to relieve the tax payers but looking at this budget we do not know if there is a department that is really fat because they cannot tie the numbers together. She states if they could identify this then they can reallocate. She would like to see a strong capital plan. Chairman Boussy states the problems are not going to fixed overnight they are looking at more of a three year plan. The Board has a discussion on attracting young folks to the town.

Approve Block Party/Philips Road (Time 136:12-136:46 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman Vallarelli made a motion to approve the block party on Philips Road on May 30, 2015 from 1pm-9pm, seconded by Selectman DePinto and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Present Trevor Woodman with Certificate (Time 136:47-137:33 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Chairman Boussy states that Trevor Woodman received his Eagle Scout Badge and was going to be here for a presentation but has a track meet and cannot be here tonight.

Call for Special Town Meeting and Set Dates for Opening and Closing of Warrant (Time 137:34-138:14 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman DePinto made a motion to call for a Special Town Meeting on June 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and for the warrant to open on May 13, 2015 and close on May 20, 2015 at 4:00 p.m., seconded by Selectwoman O’Neill and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Liquor Licensing Authority

Selectman DePinto moved to go into Liquor Licensing Authority and return as the Board of Selectman, seconded by Selectman Vallarelli.

Voting in Favor:

Selectwoman Colarusso
Selectman DePinto
Selectwoman O’Neill
Selectman Vallarelli
Chairman Boussy

Motion was unanimously voted (5-0).

**Meeting recessed at 9:15 p.m. to go into Liquor Licensing Authority.
Meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m.**

Appointment to Memorial Day Parade Committee (Time 143:21-143:26 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman DePinto made a motion to appoint Jay Humphreys 106 Elm Street, 1st Floor to the position on the Memorial Day Parade Committee, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso and **unanimously voted (5-0)**.

Utility Work on Public Ways Discussion/Boussy (Time 143:26-148:23 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Chairman Boussy goes over the areas around Town that the utility companies have done work. Chairman Boussy states that the way they are leaving the streets is unacceptable. Chairman Boussy requests a list of street opening permits over the past year. Selectman DePinto asks if they are bonded and can we go after them that way. Attorney Solomon states he can look into it. Mr. Ragucci states he will get a list of street opening permits over the past few years.

Signage Discussion/Boussy (Time 148:28-159:46 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Chairman Boussy goes over the signs around Town that need to be removed or replaced. Chairman Boussy states this is unacceptable. Selectman Vallarelli suggests putting together a master list of signs. Selectwoman Colarusso suggests having the Recycling Coordinator start developing this list since he is out and around every day monitoring trash.

Beautification Discussion/O'Neill (Time 159:46-180:26 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectwoman O'Neill states that it is spring and we need to look at spring cleaning. She states that they need to focus on getting the island in tip top shape. Selectwoman O'Neill shows an example of an island that has a sprinkler system and states if she goes around to other towns their islands have not changed. She states that here there is garbage in the islands. There has been no cleanup. She states that she has talked to Dave about the front of town hall flower beds. She states that all surrounding towns have sprinkler systems and she feels that would be an investment for the town. Selectwoman O'Neill would like to Board to consider using some of the Fallon Road Mitigation money to install sprinkler systems in our highly visible islands. We need to show that we are community that cares about ourselves. Chairman Boussy asks if the money for beautification should be moved from Selectmen to the Town Planner budget. Selectwoman O'Neill states yes absolutely. Selectwoman O'Neill states the island beautification needs to find a home it should not be done by the Selectmen. Selectwoman Colarusso states we have made some clear initiatives here with the TIF program and other areas. Selectwoman O'Neill talks about the sidewalks around town area all asphalts not granite and concrete. Mr. Ragucci states that the sprinklers, sidewalk replacements etc., can all come out of the mitigation money. Selectwoman Colarusso asked what the mitigation money can be used for. Mer. Ragucci states any cost associated with the construction, operations or any capital items purchase that pertain to the project. Chairman Boussy would like to notify everyone that there is an Eversouce Open House on May 18th from 5-7pm and he strongly encourages residents to attend with input on this project along with what they would like to see for mitigation. The Board would like to see underground lighting and sidewalks for mitigation. Chairman Boussy wants to be clear is there is no good route. They do not want it. Selectwoman O'Neill states they would rather Eversource go around us. Chairman Boussy states this project is being shoved down our throats.

Approve Minutes (Time 180:26-180:40 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman DePinto made motion to approve minutes of May 4, 2015, seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill and **voted (3-1-0)**. Selectman Vallarelli abstained.

Town Administrator (Time 180:40-186:51 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Town Administrator Ragucci states the FAB meeting on the budget went well last night. Mr. Ragucci states he is working with the Veterans Agent to setup a transportation program through Stockwell. Mr. Ragucci informs the Board that they are going to have to fix the town wide phone system which could cost up to \$85,000.00 to change the brains of the system. Mr. Ragucci suggests using Fallon Road mitigation money to do this update. Mr. Ragucci informs the Board that open check book which was funded for the first year through a grant is looking for \$9,000.00 to continue to allow us to use the program. He states that Tom Ciatelli is working on a similar program and should know soon if that will be able to replace open checkbook at no charge.

Miscellaneous (Time 186:51-191:30 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectwoman Colarusso will be introducing a customer service initiative soon so that residents can give their feedback on the services they receive from Town Departments. Dolly Wilson member of the Bikeway Committee states the cleanup of the Bikepath that happened on May 2nd was a success and the area from Main to Montvale is now cleaned up. She would like to thank Selectwoman Colarusso and the members of the DPW Bill, John and Brian who were a tremendous help that day.

Selectman DePinto made the motion to adjourn at 10:20 p.m., seconded by Selectwoman O'Neill.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Sinclair