

**Stoneham Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 24, 2022  
7:00 p.m.**

## **Open Session**

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

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Dennis Sheehan

**Call to Order:** Seibold 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))

**Agenda Item 1: Open Meeting** Seibold opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the victims of the Uvalde school shooting.

### **Agenda Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Item 3: Heritage Award** Marcia Wengen, co-chair of the Historical Commission, presented the Stoneham Historical Society and Museum with the Heritage Award for exceptional contributions to historical preservation and legacy. Steven Rotundi thanked the Commission for the award. Seibold read a certificate of appreciation to the Stoneham Historical Society and Museum.

**Agenda Item 4: Pride Day Proclamation** Parker read a Pride Month proclamation. She also announced the Pride event on the common on 6/11/22.

**Agenda Item 5: Citizens' Comment** Martin Wantman, 20 Gerald Road, updated his request for ARPA funding to remediate the ditches near his home and the high school.

**Agenda Item 6: Eversource – Project Update and Extension of Grant of Location** Mike Hagar gave a project update and stated that there are two locations that need to be wrapped up – Elm/Main and the culvert.

Pignone entered the meeting.

Hagar stated that once the two locations are finished they will still need to pull cable and complete the restoration. Seibold asked Hagar to work with Sheehan to give the Town more than what is listed in the MOU. Hagar stated that he understood and that he will look for other areas to assist the Town. Bilbo asked what Hagar expected as an end date. Hagar stated that the goal is to complete the underground in this calendar year and then complete the cable and restoration over the winter and the restoration in the spring. Bilbo stated that it sounded like restoration would take place in spring 2023, and encouraged Eversource to complete the culvert

before work on the Vale escalates. Hagar stated that his team would follow up with the Vale project to discuss timing and scope.

Parker stated that this was supposed to be an 18 month project ending in 2021 and now we are hearing the spring of 2023. She stated that she has been listening to residents cry and there needs to be some relief. Seibold asked how much time Hagar was looking for and Hagar stated that he would prefer no date listed, but he needs a year to 15 months.

Sheehan stated that 12/31/22 is a good time frame because Eversource needs to come back and request that the vault be left in the ground and resurfacing needs to be scheduled – it created a separation in constructions and restoration. Seibold stated that there is a 15 month grace period because of COVID. Bilbo stated that she is uncomfortable giving them a year extension because the residents cannot deal with another year of construction. Hagar requested a one year extension. Bilbo moved to extend the Grant of Location until 12/31/22. Pignone seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

George Seibold  
David Pignone  
Raymie Parker  
Shelly MacNeill

Motion Passes (4-0)

**Agenda Item 7: Memorial Day Parade Route Announcement** Maureen Buckley described the new route of the Memorial Day Parade on 5/30/22. She stated that she met with Chief McIntyre and Sheehan and developed a safe route for the parade which will leave Central Middle School, continue onto Pomeworth, Williams, and Main Street, and then proceed as usual. Parker moved to approve the updated route. Pignone seconded the motion. Voted unanimously 4-0.

**Agenda Item 8: Approve Minutes: 5/10/22** Bilbo moved to approve the minutes of 5/10/22. Parker seconded the motion. Voted 3-0-1 with Pignone abstaining.

**Agenda Item 9: Automatic Amusement License – Soap Box Laundromat/58 Montvale Avenue** Parker moved to approve the automatic amusement license for Soap Box Laundromat. Bilbo seconded the motion. Voted unanimously 4-0.

**Agenda Item 10: 2022 Liaison Assignments** Beyond the assignments discussed at the last meeting, Parker stated that she would like to be the liaison to the Council on Aging; Bilbo stated that she would like to be the liaison to the Tree Committee and the Farmers Market; Seibold stated that he would be the liaison to the Memorial Day Parade Committee; and Bilbo stated that Shelly MacNeill would be the liaison to the Cultural Council. Kilbride stated that she would forward an updated list to the members.

**Agenda Item 11: Subcommittee Policy (third reading)** Pignone moved to approve the Subcommittee Policy as presented. Bilbo seconded the motion. Voted unanimously 4-0.

**Agenda Item 12: High School Building Project Update** Sheehan stated that the Conservation Commission and the Storm Water Review Board reviewed the project and the Board of Appeals will be reviewing it Thursday evening. He stated that the groundbreaking will be on 6/15/22 at 1:00 pm.

**Agenda Item 13: School Building Committee Appointments** Parker moved to appoint David Ljungberg and Leia DiLorenzo-Secor to the School Building Committee and update the list of appointees to the School Building Committee. Bilbo seconded the motion. Voted unanimously 4-0.

**Agenda Item 14: ARPA Funds** Sheehan discussed previous ARPA allocations and stated that the Board could direct Sheehan to its priorities. Bilbo stated that she would like to review the survey results again. Sheehan stated that it may be helpful to consider capital items that have been on the list for several years and the Capital Committee could assist with that review. Seibold stated that he would like to consider purchasing a Zamboni for the arena. Bilbo stated that the arena has prioritized other items such as roof repairs and, while there is no doubt the arena needs a Zamboni, the Capital Committee should prioritize what needs to be purchased. Sheehan stated that the Board can vote to purchase the Zamboni or it could ask the Capital Committee to meet or survey the Capital Committee. Seibold asked Sheehan to get a list of capital requests and the survey results for the Board to review at its next meeting.

**Agenda Item 15: Attorney John Clifford – 2022 Rates** Seibold stated that Clifford is requesting an hourly rate increase from \$175/hr to \$225/hr. Parker stated that it has been easy working with Clifford. Bilbo stated that it is really a 3% yearly increase as he has been counsel for 6 years. Sheehan stated that he has been responsive, works well with department heads, and brings a depth of experience to the position. Parker moved to approve the increase to \$225/hr. Pignone seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in favor:

George Seibold  
David Pignone  
Raymie Parker  
Heidi Bilbo

Motion Passes (4-0)

**Agenda Item 16: Town Administrator's Report**

**a. Downtown Redesign** Sheehan announced that on 6/8/22 there will be a presentation by Stantec. Residents may attend the presentation or watch it on line.

**b. MBTA – Better Bus Project** Sheehan announced that the MBTA is proposing to add an east/west bus line. He stated that the decision is not final and that he will keep the Board apprised. Parker stated that this is very good news for Stoneham and that it will help residents and students. She stated that there is a meeting on 6/22 to discuss the area and MBTA map.

**c. Water and Sewer Rates** Sheehan stated that he had a conversation with Finance and Advisory Board about next step and he will be updating them on 6/6 at a public meeting.

Sheehan announced that Deb Pettengill is retiring on 5/27 and she will be greatly missed. Seibold stated that she has always been professional and a great person to work with.

**Agenda Item 17: Non-Deliberative Announcements and Scheduling** Parker wished everyone a happy Memorial Day and asked that we remember the men and women who serve this country. Pignone wished the seniors of the class of 23 a great week of events.

**Agenda Item 18: Adjourn** Parker moved to adjourn the meeting. Bilbo seconded the motion. Voted unanimously/

Respectfully submitted,

Dava Feltch Kilbride, Office Manager