

Stoneham Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting of June 23, 2015

Vice Chairwoman Ann Marie O'Neill called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectwoman Caroline Colarusso, Selectman John F. DePinto, Selectman Frank Vallarelli and Town Counsel William H. Solomon. Chairman Thomas Boussey and Town Administrator David Ragucci were not present.

Vice Chairwoman O'Neill recognized that this meeting is being taped by Stoneham TV including audio and asked if anyone else is audio taping. There was no response.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairwoman O'Neill welcomes everyone and stated the process of the meeting.

Discuss Short Term Occupation of 3 Parking Spaces on Main Street to Perform Work on the Dow Building/Nick Johnson (Time 1:35-6:52 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Nick Johnson from N. Johnson & Sons Restoration was present to ask the Board of Selectmen permission to occupy 3 parking spaces on Main Street to perform scraping and painting windows on the Dow Building. Nick Johnson states that this job will take approximately a month. Nick Johnson states there will be a police detail every day of work. Marcia Wengen co-chair of the Historical Commission states this building is listed on the national register and would ask consideration while painting that nothing gets on the brick. Mr. Johnson agreed. Selectman DePinto made a motion to approve the use of 2 parking space for the period of a month contingent upon the Town of Stoneham being listed as an additional insured on the insurance certificate, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in Favor:

Selectwoman Colarusso
Selectman DePinto
Selectman Vallarelli
Vice Chairwoman O'Neill

Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).

Public Hearing/Grant of Location/Melba Lane & Valdora Drive/National Grid (Time 7:11-21:11on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Stephen DiLorenzo the field supervisor for National Grid was present. Selectman DePinto read the Notice to Abutters regarding the petition of National Grid for locations of mains as hereinafter described for the transmission and distribution of gas in and under the following public streets, lanes, highways, and places of Town of Stoneham substantially as described in the petition dated 4/25/2015, attached hereto made a part hereof, and of the pipes, valves, governors, manholes and other structures, fixtures and appurtenances designed or intended to protect or operate said mains and accomplish the objects of said Company; and the digging up and opening the ground to lay or place same: Extend Gas Main 300 feet of 4" plastic in Melba Lane to serve #4 Valdora Drive, #2 Valdora Drive and #20 Melba Lane. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill opens to public. Katherine Moore 15 Ledge Street asks about the age of the pipes in town. Director of Public Works spoke on the age of pipes through town. Mr. Grover stated that National Grid has been very responsive this spring in regards to the trenches that need repairs. Selectwoman Colarusso asks what the time span is on the work. Mr. DiLorenzo stated about a week to a week and a half and the work will be done during the day. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states that public works has no problem with this installation. A resident from Melba Lane asked a question to National Grid. Selectman Vallarelli made a motion to approve the Grant of Location, seconded by Selectman DePinto. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting in Favor:

Selectwoman Colarusso
Selectman DePinto
Selectman Vallarelli
Vice Chairwoman O'Neill

Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).

Town Utility Projects Discussion/Colarusso (Time 21:21-47:21 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectwoman Colarusso states she feels this topic would better be discussed by the resident Susan Keeler from 22 Butler Avenue. Selectwoman Colarusso states that Susan has been watching all the projects coming to Stoneham and has some concerns. Ms. Keeler drew a map of all projects that are simultaneously scheduled for Stoneham and foresees there to be a lot of problems. Susan Keeler 22 Butler Avenue discusses the following projects and proposed routes that are all scheduled to be in progress in 2017: Mass Highway Main/North, MWRA Sewer line repair/construction, MWRA Water project, Montvale Street Widening –Woburn starting at Stoneham line, Eversource, Stoneham Oaks major building project and Bike Path. Ms. Keeler stated that as she drew the map she noticed that with these projects all happening at the same time there is an area that is completely isolated. She feels this presents a real serious public safety issue. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states she thinks she can speak for the Board and they agree with her. Vice Chairman O'Neill states it is not fair to Stoneham to bare the grunt of these utility companies to provide service to other communities. She states along with health and safety there are economic challenges. She states that they have spent a lot of time trying to revitalize the businesses in town and be supportive and this is contrary. Selectwoman Colarusso reiterates the concerns of Vice Chairwoman O'Neill along with the area in itself being troubling to her primarily due to the fact that there is elderly housing up on Mountain View. She states that emergency vehicles need to go back and forth from that location from time to time. She does not want to risk any residents not getting emergency services. She states that this map that Ms. Keeler presented begs for our attention and we need to sit down and come up with a position and work with Bill to attempt to stagger these projects and jeopardize anyone's safety. Ms. Keeler suggests getting public safety officials involved at this stage. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states they are meeting with Eversource Friday, June 26, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the Banquet Hall. She states they are coming with their plan looking for our blessing and we are not giving them our blessing. She states letters have been sent to Eversource and our State Representative and Senator. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states they are reaching out to the government level to Congresswoman Clark, Markey and Congresswoman Warren. She states they are taking this very seriously. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill

thanks Ms. Keeler for putting this together. Selectwoman Colarusso wanted to let Ms. Keeler know there are other folks that they have heard from. She states there need to be better coordination between the various groups involved and they need to consider the needs of the community. Ms. Keeler would like MWRA to coordinate within their own agency so they not at the same area at the same time. Ms. Keeler would also like the board to take a step back and reassess the plan for the Stoneham Oaks Golf Course. She encourages a neighborhood meeting regarding this project the neighborhoods affected are waiting and she would like the board to know there is opposition. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states they have been notifying neighborhoods when things are affecting them either by reverse 911 calls, website and Facebook. Selectman Vallarelli states that these dates are subject to change. Selectman DePinto states he is going to inform Eversource at the Friday meeting about the MWRA projects. Selectwoman Colarusso states on behalf of the residents she would like to say thank you to Ms. Keeler. Barbara Lawrence 100 Ledgewood Drive would like to thank the Board for not accepting and signing off on the host agreement letter from Eversource. Ms. Lawrence would also like to thank the Board for writing the letter to Eversource and covering two things that you are not approving the project and addressing the water based route. She would also like to thank you for reaching out to our Congressional delegation. She would finally like to thank our State Representative Michael Day and Senator Jason Lewis along with their colleagues from our surrounding towns who wrote to the regulatory board. Ms. Lawrence discusses the project and states her concerns. Vice Chairwoman encourages residents to come Friday at 3pm in the Banquet Room to express their concerns.

Trash Discussion/DePinto (Time 47:22-49:47 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman DePinto would like to discuss reducing the trash fee by \$20.00. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states the goal is to decrease the trash fee but she would like more data than this before making that decision. Selectman Vallarelli states they need more time especially is the bills are already generated and he stated that they are still potentially thinking about revising the system further at some point. Selectman DePinto suggests revisiting this in September. The Board agrees.

Fallon Road/Town Administrator

Item was tabled to July 14, 2015 meeting.

Final Payment Discussion regarding Agreement with BJ's for Public Safety/Town Administrator

Item was tabled to July 14, 2015 meeting.

Update Communications & Computer Use Policy/Town Administrator

Item was tabled to July 14, 2015 meeting.

Appointment to Historical Commission (Time 50:44-51:47 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman DePinto made a motion to appoint Dolly Wilson, 181 Central Street on the Historical Commission until April 30, 2017, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso **and unanimously voted (4-0)**. Selectman DePinto made a motion to appoint Joanne DiMambro, 5 Elizabeth Road as an associate member on the Historical Commission until April 30, 2016, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso and **unanimously voted (4-0)**.

Approve Block Party/Dianne Road (Time 52:01-52:32 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman DePinto made a motion to approve the block party request on Dianne Road, Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 2pm-7pm, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso and **unanimously voted (4-0)**.

Accept Donations to Memorial Day Parade (Time 52:33-53:06 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman DePinto made a motion to accept the donations to the Memorial Day Parade, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso and **unanimously voted (4-0)**.

Approve Minutes (Time 53:07-53:34 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman DePinto made motion to approve minutes of 6/9/15, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso with an additional comment to be added to the discussion regarding the town administrator goals during miscellaneous and **unanimously voted (4-0)**. Selectman DePinto made motion to approve minutes of 6/11/15, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso and **unanimously voted (4-0)**.

Stockwell (Time 53:35-56:37 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Selectman DePinto made a motion to approve request #1 for Stockwell, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso **unanimously voted (4-0)**. Selectman DePinto made a motion to approve request #2 for Stockwell, seconded by Selectwoman Colarusso **unanimously voted (4-0)**.

Miscellaneous (Time 56:44-70:30 on Stoneham TV on Demand)

Vice Chairwoman O'Neill wanted to say that the Farmers Market opened on last Thursday was it was a huge success. She invites the public to come by Thursday from 2:30-6:30. It was so well attended that many vendors sold out in two hours. She states the Farmers Market Committee did a superb job and she would like to thank them and if anyone would be interested in volunteering the contact can be found on the website. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill would also like to notify people that there is a regional MBTA transportation meeting on Thursday at Wakefield Junior High at 6:30pm. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states she would like to see a stop at the Zoo and she will personally be at this meeting. Dolly Wilson 181 Central Street speaks. Selectman DePinto would like people to know that there will be a pizza oven at the Farmers Market this week. Selectwoman Colarusso spoke to Mr. Ciatelli today about the new phones system and would like to let the public and the board know that the police has been completed, DPW will be tomorrow and everyone else should be online within a week or two. Selectwoman Colarusso states the customer service survey is ready to go and he can have that out by next Friday up and live running. Selectwoman Colarusso states there is a \$300.00 cost to provide unlimited feedback to our residents. She states the Mr. Ciatelli felt the \$300.00 fee was the best way to approach it.

Selectwoman Colarusso made a motion to approve the \$300.00 investment for the customer service program from the IT budget, seconded by Selectman DePinto. A roll call vote was taken. Voting in Favor: Selectwoman Colarusso, Selectman DePinto, Selectman Vallarelli, Vice Chairwoman O'Neill. **Motion was unanimously voted (4-0).** As acting Chairwoman of the Board, I state that the Open Meeting Law Complaint received on Monday, June 22, 2015 by the Town Clerk was not reasonably anticipated at the time the agenda was finalized and filed with the Town Clerk on Thursday, June 18th so she would just like to ask the Board permission to have Bill look at that and advise for us. Selectwoman Colarusso made a motion to take the matter up, seconded by Selectman DePinto and **unanimously voted (4-0).** Selectman DePinto asks Bill if he will get back to the Board with a recommendation. Attorney Solomon read the draft motion to move that the Board vote to authorize Town Counsel to respond to the subject Open Meeting Law Complaint received by the Town Clerk on June 22, 2015 including to request as Counsel deems necessary a meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Attorney Solomon stated he will draft something and then submit a response to the Attorney General Office. Attorney Solomon states he has 14 days to respond but will probably as for an extension to be granted. Attorney Solomon thinks this will be discussed at the July 14th meeting. Selectwoman Colarusso wanted to give an update on the South School crosswalk. She stated she talked to Mr. Grover and he stated due to weather the first week it was scheduled canceled and they are chasing the contractor. Selectwoman Colarusso would also like to follow up on the Library paint and Dave is not here for that discussion so we will probably bring that up on the 14th. Selectwoman Colarusso would like to thank Larry Brophy for making adjustments at the Senior Center on the heating/cooling system that cost us no money and seems to be working better the folks up there appreciate it. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states she doesn't think they have anything to go into Executive Session for. The Board agrees. Ellen McBride 30 Butler Avenue asks if item #14 will be put on another agenda. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill stated she felt that they were asking to be granted privileges that the Board does not have authority over. Selectman Vallarelli states that was really not a matter for the Board to discuss it is up to the person and their own personal attorney. Ellen McBride also stated that she as a resident would like Dave's goals be a public meeting. Selectman DePinto and Vallarelli state they do that every year and it is an open meeting. She states that there is a lot of damage due to ice dams at Whip Hill. Selectwoman Colarusso would like the area off Galvin Circle and the fence that is falling down be put on the agenda for the next meeting and have Bob come out. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill gave an update on the islands and let people know that this year we redid the contract and moved that responsibility over to the Town Planner's Office which is great thing because it is where it should be. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states this year's contract has been finalized so we should start seeing some work being done and it is a program we should continue to see improvement. She stated that because we redid the contract we got started later this year but if you remember last year we did not get started until after July either but next year we are hoping to start in April. Vice Chairwoman O'Neill states they are looking into replanting in front of the Town Hall also. Selectwoman Colarusso would like to add that thanks to the Town Planner and Selectwoman O'Neill there was saving this year on the island work.

Executive Session

The Board did not go into Executive Session.

Selectman DePinto made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Sinclair