

Stoughton Town Crier

TOWN OF STOUGHTON UPDATED SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 ROBERTA HARBACK



All information taken from various Town of Stoughton pages



Selectboard Agenda

Tuesday Sept. 24, 2024 - 7:30 p.m.

Great Hall Town Hall 3rd floor & virtually with Google Meets

WE TAKE CARE OF YOUR BUSINESS

In accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, which extends the Governor's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.C. 30A § 20", until March 31, 2025, this meeting will be conducted both in person and virtually via Google Meets.

To Join via Google Meets: [pny-even-nqo](https://meet.google.com/pny-even-nqo)
PHONE: 707-867-0239
PIN: 333 685 500#

The meeting will be recorded by SMAC cable television and broadcast live and may be livestreamed at www.stoughtontv.org. A recording of the meeting, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceeding will be posted on the Town's website and/or SMAC as soon as possible after the meeting if the live broadcast or livestreaming is unsuccessful. Times are approximate and items may be taken out of order at the Chair's discretion.

1. 7:30 p.m. **OPEN SESSION**
Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. 7:35 p.m. Select Board Comments
3. 7:45 p.m. Town Manager Comments
4. 7:55 p.m. Citizens' Comments
5. 8:00 p.m. 2024 Special Town Meeting Articles
- Close the Warrant (Votes may be taken) Marc Tisdelle
Town Engineer
6. 8:15 p.m. **Executive Session:**
 - a. Executive session pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 21 (a)(3) and (6)) - To discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating or litigating position of the Board and the Chair so declares
 - b. Approval of Executive Session Minutes Meetings of June 18, 2024 and July 3, 2024

Amended Curbside Trash/Recycling Pickup Days for Future Holidays

Day	Holiday	Holiday Date (Observed)	Amended Day
Thursday	Thanksgiving	11/28/24	Friday, 11/29/24
Wednesday	Christmas Day	12/25/24	Thursday, 12/26/24
Wednesday	New Year's Day	01/01/25	Thursday, 01/02/25
Thursday	Juneteenth	06/19/25	Friday, 06/20/25
Friday	Independence Day	07/04/25	Monday, 07/07/25
Tuesday	Veteran's Day	11/11/25	Wednesday, 11/12/25
Thursday	Thanksgiving	11/27/25	Friday, 11/28/25
Thursday	Christmas Day	12/25/25	Friday, 12/26/25
Thursday	New Year's Day	01/01/26	Friday, 01/02/26

- * Thursday, 11/28/24 will be picked up Friday, 11/29/24.
- * Friday, 11/29/24 will be picked up Monday, 12/02/24.

- * Wednesday, 12/25/24 will be picked up Thursday, 12/26/24.
- * Thursday, 12/26/24 will be picked up Friday, 12/27/24.
- * Friday, 12/27/24 will be picked up Monday, 12/28/24.

- * Wednesday, 1/01/25 will be picked up Thursday, 1/02/25.
- * Thursday, 1/02/25 will be picked up Friday, 1/03/25.
- * Friday, 1/03/25 will be picked up Monday, 1/06/25.

- * Thursday, 6/19/25 will be picked up Friday, 6/20/25.
- * Friday, 6/20/25 will be picked up Monday, 6/23/25.

- * Friday, 7/04/25 will be picked up Monday, 7/07/25.

- * Tuesday, 11/11/25 will be picked up Wednesday, 11/12/25.
- * Wednesday, 11/12/25 will be picked up Thursday, 11/13/25.
- * Thursday, 11/13/25 will be picked up Friday, 11/14/25.
- * Friday, 11/14/25 will be picked up Monday, 11/17/25.

- * Thursday, 11/27/25 will be picked up Friday, 11/28/25.
- * Friday, 11/28/25 will be picked up Monday, 12/01/25.

- * Thursday, 12/25/25 will be picked up Friday, 12/26/25.
- * Friday, 12/26/25 will be picked up Monday, 12/29/25.

- * Thursday, 1/01/26 will be picked up Friday, 1/02/26.
- * Friday, 1/02/26 will be picked up Monday, 1/05/26.



Town of Stoughton • Public Works Department
950 Central Street • 781 344 2112

Arts and Humanity Grant Opportunity

Stoughton Cultural Council Grant Opportunity:
Grant applications are currently being sought and
accepted until October 16, 2024.

**Please note the following funding priorities
stipulated below.**

Stoughton Cultural Council 2024-2025 Funding Priorities

- Events that occur in Stoughton (or a neighboring town)
- Events that have set dates confirmed with Stoughton venues (include written confirmation from the specified venue/s)
- Events that involve Stoughton residents in meaningful roles (i.e. local artists, performers, etc)
- Applications that include detailed plans with a strong focus on increasing participation from Stoughton residents

For more information and to submit an application,
click on the link:

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/>

Deadline for Submissions:
October 16th



Upcoming Election Information:

In person Early Voting at Town Clerk's Office:
October 19, 2024 - November 1, 2024

State/Presidential Election:
Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Additional Voter Information Links:

Elections Division:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm>

Vote by Mail:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/vote-by-mail.htm>

Absentee Voting:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/absentee-voting.htm>

How to Register to Vote

: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voter-resources/registering-to-vote.htm>

Political Parties & Designations:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/political-parties-and-designations.htm>





STOUGHTON'S HOMETOWN OLYMPIAN

FREDERICK RICHARD



KEY TO THE TOWN PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, DOORS OPEN @ 11 AM

STOUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

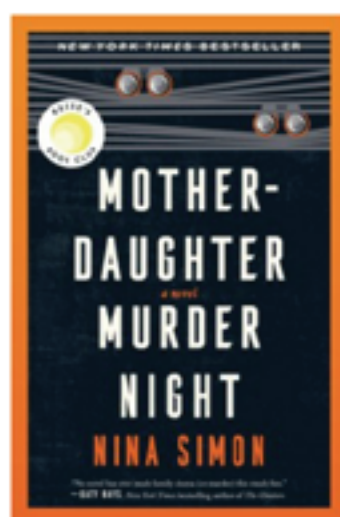


LET'S FLIP WITH FRED!

- We invite residents to welcome Frederick home from the Olympics with a VIP escort and awards presentation
- Listen to Frederick and his family speak about their journey to the Olympic Games
- Representatives honor Frederick and present him with a key to the Town
- Enter to win tickets to "Gold Over America" at TD Garden. Merchandise for sale before presentation
- No admission charge. Please arrive early and note this is not a meet and greet event



Virtual Book Club



Wednesday, October 9th
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

This is a live Zoom event and
registration is required.



STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

NEW ENGLAND TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

SPEND HALLOWEEN NIGHT WITH STOUGHTON FILM HISTORIAN FRANK MANDOSA...IF YOU DARE!



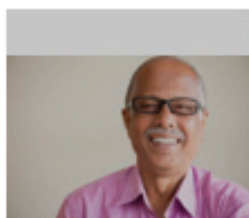
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31st
6:30 PM - 8:15 PM ON ZOOM**

Please visit <https://www.stoughton.org/595/Attend> to sign up.

A Zoom link will be sent 1 day prior to the program.



High school English & Film teacher Frank Mandosa gives talks on a wide variety of film-related topics & has 2 movie podcasts, Silver Screeners (host) & Movies Across the Pod (co-host). Facebook movie group: "Silver Screeners" Twitter: @filmbuff1974 Email: silverscreenerspod@gmail.com www.frankmandosa.weebly.com



FREE Online Library 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group

Meeting Features:

Topical Presentations
Interactive Workshops
Expert Guest Speakers
Access To Hiring Managers
Networking Opportunities
Coaching Guidance

Meeting Schedule:

Aug. 7: Self Assessment

Aug. 21: Career Story

Sept. 4: LinkedIn

Sept. 18: Resumes

Oct. 2: Cover Letters/Using AI

Oct. 16: Thinking Outside the Box

Nov. 6: Networking

Nov. 20: Interview Strategies

Dec. 4: Interview Practice

Dec. 18: Marketing Plan

Group's Purpose:

For people 50 & older looking
for a new job/career direction.
Create a new job search tool kit.
35 members found new jobs in
the first 6 months of 2024.



Facilitated by
Deborah Hope, MBA,
Professional Coach

Where: All meetings are via Zoom

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays,
9:30am to 11:30am.

Informal Networking: 9am to 9:30am
and 11:30am to noon. Register below.

www.tinyurl.com/library50plusjobseekers

Questions? Contact co-facilitator Robert Hayes at
978-640-4490 x 205 or rhayes@tewksburypl.org.

**Co-sponsored by
The Stoughton Public Library.**



**SAVE
THE DATE**

Stoughton's Autumn Advantage: Small Business Event

Grow Your Business through Public Contracting

The Town of Stoughton and the Operational Services Division – the state agency that manages the Commonwealth's Statewide Contracts – are pleased to host an event for local businesses to learn about working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Stoughton Town Hall

10 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

Thursday, October 10, 2024

Drop-In Format 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Four Reasons You Should Attend

1. Attend an OSD Training Workshop: Overview of Statewide Contracts and COMMBURS: 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
2. Learn about certification opportunities from the Supplier Diversity Office: 5:00 – 5:30 p.m.
3. Meet with Chamber of Commerce representatives to learn about available programs and ways to market your business.
4. Learn more about contractor certification for public bidding from the Division of Capital Asset and Management (DCAMM).

Register ▶▶



Send questions to OSD-Events@mass.gov



OPERATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

One Ashburton Place, Suite 1608 | Boston, MA 02108 | 617-720-3300 | www.mass.gov/osd



**VENDOR TABLES
LIVE MUSIC
FOOD TRUCKS
FACE PAINTER
TOUCH-A-TRUCK
BALLOON ARTIST
& MORE!**

WWW.STOUGHTONREC.ORG

15 PLEASANT ST STOUGHTON MA - RECREATION@STOUGHTON-MA.GOV - 781-341-1300 X9244

SATURDAY, 9/28/2024

11 AM - 3 PM

HALLORAN PARK



stoughtontv.com
781-341-1708
421 Page Street, Suite 2

Verizon: Public 28 / Education 26 / Government 24
Comcast: Public 1073 (HD) 9 (SD) / Education 6 / Government 8

**STOUGHTON TV
PRODUCES**



**If you have an idea for a
program please reach out to
us and we will help you
produce your own Podcast!**

Contact Anya Zulawnik at
azulawnik@stoughtontv.com
or call at 781-341-1708.

www.stoughtontv.com

Community Preservation Committee Request for New Applications

September, 2024

The Stoughton Community Preservation Committee is looking for citizens and groups to submit applications for funding under the Community Preservation Act at next year's Annual Town Meeting in May. The Community Preservation Fund supports a diverse variety of proposals that seek to improve the quality of life for the people of Stoughton.

Projects that can be funded by Stoughton's Community Preservation Fund can qualify in any of four categories: Open Space, Community Housing, Recreation or Historic Preservation. To see a sampling of Stoughton's CPA-funded projects, go to:

<https://www.stoughton.org/DocumentCenter/View/1097/CPA-Funded-Projects-PDF>

Application forms are available online at:
<https://www.stoughton.org/413/CPA-Fund-Application-Forms>

**Pre-applications, which are the first step in applying for funding,
are due by September 25th.**

Full applications are due by October 25th.

We will also be holding an informational public hearing on
Tuesday, October 8th
in the Fitzpatrick Room at Town Hall,
and accessible online at meet.google.com/sgi-wovg-jra
or by calling 347-947-1811 and using PIN

Please address any questions and submit all applications to
Community Preservation Committee Program Administrator
Barry Kassler at bKassler@Stoughton-MA.gov.

STOUGHTON OASIS COALITION PRESENTS:

HOPE & RECOVERY

A Panel Discussion

Hear from a panel of local individuals about their recovery journeys and messages of HOPE for individuals and families struggling with substance use disorder, followed by time for your questions.

Wednesday, September 25th

6:30-8:30pm

Stoughton Public Library



Thanks to a generous donation from Audio & Lighting Unlimited,
light refreshments will be provided

Questions? Call Christine at 774-517-7006



Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with local Latina authors

These women are part of the **Extraordinary Latinas Book Vol III.**

This is a book of stories of Extraordinary Latinas who triumphed over challenges, shattered barriers, pursued their dreams, challenged the status quo, embraced their identities, and demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

Join us in a candid and needed conversation where we will cultivate and nurture a sense of community and belonging for Latinx during this Hispanic Heritage Month.

Stoughton Public Library.

84 Park St. Stoughton

September 26th 2024

6:30 pm-7:30 pm EST



Maria Gonzalez
M&A Supplier Diversity
Consultants



Leonela Gonzalez -Fogarty
English 4 Life Network



Ilhiana Rojas Saldana
United Latinas
BeLIVE Coaching and Consulting



Dulce Orozco
Latina Immigrant Therapist



Mead, Talerman & Costa, LLC
Attorneys at Law

30 Green Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
Phone 978.463.7700

www.mtclawyers.com

Millis Office
730 Main Street, Suite 1F
Millis, MA 02054

New Bedford Office
227 Union Street, Suite 606
New Bedford, MA 02740

September 18, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Lisa Lyons
[REDACTED]
Stoughton, MA 02072
LisaLyonsRep@gmail.com

RE: Open Meeting Law Complaint

Public Body: Stoughton South School Independent Working Group
Individual(s): Thomas Calter, John Anzivino, Jess Miner
Complainant: Lisa Lyons
Alleged Violation Date: September 3, 2024
Date of Complaint: September 9, 2024
Date Received: September 9, 2024

Dear Ms. Lyons:

The Stoughton South School Independent Working Group (the "Group") has received and reviewed the above-captioned Open Meeting Law ("OML") complaint, attached hereto as Exhibit A, in which you allege that the Group violated the OML by failing to make video recordings of its meetings and by failing to make the recordings accessible to the public.

The OML defines a "public body," in pertinent part, as "a multiple member board, commission, committee or subcommittee within the executive or legislative branch or within any county, district, city, region or town, however created, elected, appointed or otherwise constituted, established to serve a public purpose[.]" G.L. c. 30A, § 18. The Supreme Judicial Court, however, recognizes an exception to this definition for groups that are not "constituted or regulated by statute or by-law" but are rather "informally appointed to assist an [individual public official] in carrying out a task that the Legislature permitted him to carry out in a closed session." *Connelly v. School Committee of Hanover*, 409 Mass. 232, 238 (1991); *see also* OML 2019-71. Such groups are therefore not subject to the OML. *Id.*

Here, you submit that the Group is a public body as defined by the OML and that it is, therefore, subject thereto. To the contrary, the Group fits squarely within the exception set forth in *Connelly*. Specifically, Town Manager Thomas J. Calter ("Calter") created the Group, as you recognize in your Complaint, to hear, consider, and vet information relating to the South School Project; that is, the Group was not constituted or regulated by statute or by-law, but was rather informally appointed to assist Calter in carrying out a task that he is permitted to carry out, individually if he wished to, in a closed session. Like the group in *Connelly*, the Group is merely an advisory committee to an individual public official. In addition, the fact that members of Town public bodies are part of the Group does not change its role as an advisory committee. *See* OML 2019-71. Indeed, in *Connelly*, two members of the advisory

committee were also members of the local school committee. In sum, the Group is not a public body within the meaning of the OML and is, therefore, not subject thereto.

Additionally, even if the Group were subject to the OML – which it is not – the OML does not require public bodies to make video recordings of their meetings, public bodies are rather required to “create and maintain accurate minutes of all meetings, including executive sessions, setting forth the date, time and place, the members present or absent, a summary of the discussions on each subject, a list of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting, the decisions made and the actions taken at each meeting, including the record of all votes.” G.L. c. 30A, § 22(a). Accordingly, even if the Group were subject to the OML – which it is not – the remedy you have requested – that meetings be recorded – would not be available.

Lastly, the excerpt from the Division of Open Government’s (the “DOG”) Open Meeting Law Guide that you attached to your complaint – which cites *Connelly* specifically – directly contradicts your own Complaint. It states, in pertinent part:

Individual government officials, such as a town manager or police chief, and members of their staff are not subject to the law, and so they may meet with one another to discuss public business without needing to comply with Open Meeting Law requirements...Bodies appointed by a public official solely for the purpose of advising the official on a decision that individual could make alone are not public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Law. For example, a school superintendent appoints a five-member advisory body to assist her in nominating candidates for school principal, a task the superintendent could perform herself. That advisory body would not be subject to the Open Meeting Law.

(Emphasis added). As such, please be advised that the DOG “discourage[s]...complaints containing frivolous allegations [as doing so] wastes both municipal and Commonwealth resources.” OML 2023-192.

We trust that this satisfies your concerns and we appreciate your efforts to ensure compliance with the Commonwealth’s Open Meeting Law.

A copy of this determination has been filed with the Attorney General’s Office along with your complaint and you may appeal this determination to the Attorney General’s Office in accordance with State law.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Alexander M. Castro

Alexander M. Castro
Town Counsel

cc: Stoughton South School Independent Working Group
Division of Open Government

Welcome to the Town Manager's Office!

On December 12, 2022 I was honored to begin my career in Stoughton. After enjoying a successful career in business, as a State Legislator and as a Town Administrator, I've taken on this challenge with eyes wide open. From a career of professional experiences, successes and mistakes, I join the Town well prepared to meet the challenges, and leverage the opportunities before us. It's hard to believe that almost 3 months have already passed. I apologize for not reaching out sooner. I want you to know that I am true and committed to several core values.

First, you can always expect transactional honesty from me. I will respectfully say what I mean and mean what I say. Second, I am committed to openness and full transparency. Secrets, hidden agendas and old grievances will not play any part in my decision making process nor, will they eat up the valuable time needed to do this job properly. Third, you can always expect me to use prudent fiscal judgement. We have real financial challenges and clear solutions which will require your understanding and support. I am not promising a "Rose Garden". I am promising however, that within three years, the Town of Stoughton will stand on a strong financial footing.

We have some challenges that are among my top priorities. As Stoughton looks forward to its 300th Anniversary, it's important to understand that our infrastructure is old and has been neglected for decades. We seldom appreciate the value of clean running water and efficient waste management until those services are interrupted or lost. We all share 112 miles of Stoughton roads. Only 24.1 miles require minimal or no maintenance. As we develop a long-term infrastructure plan, we need to coordinate the replacement of 100 year old water and waste water distribution lines with the pavement of those roads. We need to replace water meters that are not properly recording water consumption. This may appear to be getting into the weeds. However, the condition of our water and sewer lines, town buildings, and town roads is beneath the standard you deserve. Meeting those challenges is among my top priorities. Meeting you and hearing your views will be among my greatest joys!

In closing, I want you to know that openness, transparency and constituent service are among my core values. Those values served me well as a business executive, business owner, legislator and municipal leader. Your confidence in Stoughton town government is needed in order for us to move our common agenda forward. I ask that you stay in touch, stay involved, share your thoughts and make your voice heard.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Calter

