

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2013**

Gregg McBride opened the meeting and introduced Ellen Allen, David DeCoste and Town Administrator James Boudreau. *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

7:35 Town Clerk Department Update – Town Clerk Patricia Anderson explained that her Office has been busy preparing for the upcoming Special State Primary and Special State Election due to Senator John Kerry becoming Secretary of State. She hopes it will not conflict with the local Elections and Town Meeting. These additional elections had not been factored into her budget. She also explained the steps involved in conducting the Town Census. Finally, she reported that nomination papers for Town offices will be available the first week in February, with the Town Clerk's office beginning preparations for Town Meeting and town elections in March.

7:50 Cushing Center Department Update – Present: Jef Fitzgerald, Donna Cunio and MaryLou O'Leary. Jef Fitzgerald briefed the Board on the Cushing Center. Renovations have been completed, funded by the CPA. These include the cupola restoration work and the painting of the exterior trim. Windows had been done a few years back, so the outside is in good shape. MaryLou explained the rental income. The downstairs offices have long term leases. New Hope Chapel rents the hall every Sunday and one day during the week. The hall is rented for numerous events; spring and fall are the busiest. Rental income is turned back to the town's General Fund. The Cushing Center has a small trust that is used for miscellaneous items like new chairs. Jef Fitzgerald said that paving the parking lot is a goal and may be addressed in a Warrant Article.

8:10 Athletic Fields Committee (AFC) – Present: Chair Glenn Ferguson, Vice Chair Rich Webber, Jeannie Burtch, Mark Maiellano, David Benedict, Jeff Bergholtz and Eric Thorbahn. Glenn gave a brief history on the AFC and explained that this past summer, there had been changes to the CPA law, which now allow funds to be used for existing town fields. The CPC engaged Gale Associates to do a comprehensive field assessment on the 22 fields in town and in December, Gale gave a presentation and provided a 22 page report. Gale believes the town needs 5-7 additional fields and recommended that the best course of action would be to build 2 artificial turf fields at the High School. Artificial turf can be used substantially more often than other fields. The AFC is seeking funding from the CPA of \$2.9M to pay for preparation of fields, lighting, electrical, and a new track. The only thing that can't be paid for with CPA funds is the artificial turf itself, which would cost \$600K. This would be raised through private fundraising. Gregg McBride asked about the AFC's plans for the existing 22 fields in town. Rich Webber explained that once the turf fields are in place, those fields will see approximately 600 fewer uses per year and can be rested. Glenn Ferguson explained that usage for one field is 250 times per year but a turf field can be used up to 1000 times per year. Mark Maiellano stated that if all the fields in Town were in perfect condition, it still would not be enough because the problem is the capacity, not just the conditions. Rich Webber explained that the AFC is on schedule with the application process to the CPC. Glenn Ferguson explained that the AFC had met with the School Committee, which is on board with beginning work in the fall; this would mean all football games would be played away.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved to approve the meeting minutes for November 14, 2012 Open Meeting, November 28, 2012 Open Meeting and November 28, 2012 Public Hearing. Seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.*

OLD BUSINESS

Goals & Policies – Gregg McBride explained the importance of having Goals and Policies in place. He shared his list of Goals:

1. Maintaining a high level of service for the community,
2. Encouraging sustainable budgets and an excellent financial rating,
3. Promoting diversity,
4. Increasing non residential revenue,
5. Maintaining the semi rural character of the Town with its open space, and
6. Promoting a welcoming community which values the historic diversity of the town.

Ellen Allen shared her ideas for goals, noting their similarity:

1. Maintaining/enhancing a strong financial position including financial policies and sustainable budgets that support desired services,
2. Increasing the commercial tax base,
3. Having efficient operations,
4. Being good stewards of the town's assets including buildings, land, roads, and employees, and
5. Building a stronger community by breaking down silos, building trust, enhancing coordination and cooperation amongst boards/departments/committees, and increasing civic engagement.

David DeCoste offered:

1. Communications,
2. OPEB,
3. Pension liabilities, and
4. Assessing shortfalls and providing a remedy for each major shortfall.

Gregg McBride asked Ellen Allen and David DeCoste to submit their ideas to him to pull together in a combined draft document.

2013 License Renewals (continued) – hold

ADJOURNMENT – *Motion was made to adjourn by Ellen Allen, seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.*



Board of Selectmen