

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2016**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

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Ms. Allen opened the meeting at 7:38pm, and introduced Jason Brown, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin. Gregg McBride will be calling in for a portion of the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved the agenda as written. Seconded by Mr. Smellie and unanimously voted.

REPORTS

Citizen Comments - None

Roslyn Wiseman, 147 Winter Street. Ms. Wiseman has been dealing with the problem of a drainage ditch adjacent to her driveway for 10 years, which impedes her progress in and out. Last winter there was a major problem because her car went into the ditch, resulting in costly repairs to the homeowner. She has tried to get this corrected with no success, and has come to the meeting to seek a resolution for this problem. She gave a summary of her attempts to get this problem fixed with no success, and is very frustrated. Ms. Allen thanked Ms. Wiseman for coming in, and will follow up with Mr. Morin to get this problem corrected.

Selectmen's Report –

Ms. Demong reminded all that Monday, February 29th is the Tick Awareness program at the High School Little Theater. Health agents from 7 surrounding towns will be attending. She invited all Town residents to attend to support more tick education in the Town.

Upcoming Elections: Ms. Allen reminded all that absentee ballots can be picked up at the Town Clerk's office, and they must be filed by 2/29/16.

Anyone wishing to run for Town office can pick up filing papers from the Town Clerk. Papers must be taken out by 3/18/16 and returned by 3/22/16.

The Town election will be held on the same day as the state senate election; 5/10/16.

Town Administrator's Report

None

Beautification Awards

Ms. Allen introduced Susan Solis, Chair of the Beautification Committee to give the annual Beautification Committee awards. Ms. Solis gave a history of the committee and some project highlights over the years of committee activity. She then introduced the committee members.

The Myrtle McKay Individual award of the year was given to Jill Parker. Ms. Solis highlighted Ms. Parker's wonderful contributions to the Town over many years. In addition to the award, Ms. Parker was given a congratulatory proclamation from Senator Hedlund. Ms. Parker thanked the Town and the committee for the award and kind words.

The Myrtle McKay Business award of the year was given to the Norwell Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice. The NVNA is dedicated to the health and wellbeing of the community

and business clients. Meg Doherty, President and CEO, and other employees were present to receive the award. Ms. Doherty gave a short history of the hospice building and its role in the Hingham and Norwell communities, as well as the rehab of the NVNA office building in Assinippi Park. The company has made huge contributions to both the Town and surrounding communities. They were thanked by Ms. Solis and Ms. Allen for all their hard work. Senator Hedlund also gave the NVNA a congratulatory proclamation.

8:00pm Ziad Kary/EPG – Main Street Construction Discussion

Ziad Kary of EPG was present to talk about this project. Ms. Allen reviewed the handouts to the board which itemized updated price quotes for the sidewalk project in the future. Ms. Allen recapped the recent issue of \$3.3million in bonds at a very good rate. The current project has always included a portion of sidewalk from South St. to Assinippi Corner. Mr. Kary gave a summary of the updated plans for this project:

Option1: The original design includes the sidewalk portion as stated above. The drainage system is already installed, the NOI was filed was last week with 20 catch basins that will be installed on the south side of the street. The contractor is MPR, whose bid expires on 6/6/16. He was contacted and should be ready to go with a week's notice. It will take 25 days to have the drainage in place. Capone Brothers will construct the sidewalk after the road is done. All spreadsheets have updated pricing. Capone needs two weeks' notice to start. The next step will be to get TL Edwards to do the milling and paving, with completion projected by September of 2016.

Option 2: Move forward and do the curbing for the whole length of Main St. into Town Center, which will allow the addition of the sidewalk at a later date. This spreadsheet has the updated cost of the curbing, which is \$39/linear foot. There is a \$400K increase to the project cost to extend granite curbing to the Town Center. Mr. Kary gave a breakdown of the costs for this option with updated numbers. Adding a sidewalk AND curbing at a later date wouldn't look as good and would mean extra paving for the road. Ms. Demong asked about adding a grass strip on the south side of the street. Mr. Kary stated that it would mostly occupy the right of way on Main Street. He also walked people through the map and pointed out areas where a grass strip would interfere with existing structures, trees, or would be beyond the right of way, stating that most of the street could have a 2 ft wide grass strip. Ms. Demong reminded all that with the grass, mailboxes could be set the correct way and the grass would provide a visual buffer for drivers. Maintenance of the grass strip by the Town was discussed; the hope is that curbing will cut down on the wear and tear of the grass.

To add a sidewalk in the future; the cost will be priced by the ton based on length x width at \$95 per ton. The estimate is about \$330K for the sidewalk, plus restoration work, which doesn't include pedestrian bridge costs and extra culverts and other Conservation Commission requirements. Mr. Kary will work up the total cost. Discussion ensued about the ability to do the sidewalk in sections. Mr. Brown would like to ask the future highway surveyor for the annual maintenance costs for the grass strip. Ms. Allen stated that the current paving funds available in the town including Chapter 90 money are nearly all committed to other projects. Hopefully the town will get more Chapter 90 money this spring when it passes at the State level. However, Mr. Morin reminded all not to count on any cushion being returned to the Fund Balance. Other potential funding sources were briefly discussed.

The board continued to discuss sidewalk options, curbing, Cape Cod berms and timing. Ms. Allen stated that in order to fund the granite curbing, the Town would need to find \$400K, either in Free Cash, a borrowing or future Chapter 90 money. The BOS may have to let the Town vote, as there is a lot of opportunity cost here. The board will take this under advisement and

put this topic on next week's agenda as the Warrant is closing next Wednesday, March 2nd. Mr. McBride was unable to call in, but Ms. Allen stated that he had questions about the intersection at Jacob's Lane. Per Mr. Kary, that intersection will be restructured as discussed in prior meetings.

Paradise Drive resident Peter Bloomfield spoke about this project, stating that supporters of the sidewalk are still very interested in a fiscally responsible option. Per Mr. Morin, the curbing will come down to the availability of Chapter 90 money. Cape Cod berms are about half the cost of granite but won't last. Peter Bloomfield would like to have the option for the Town to vote at Town Meeting. Per Ms. Allen's question to Mr. Kary, waiting to decide until after Town Meeting on 5/2/16 would be acceptable. The sidewalk contractor would then have to be scheduled. Mr. Brown stated that while he generally agrees with the wish to give this choice to the residents, his only concern is that the BOS are the elected executives of the Town, and to take money in savings from other uses might not be prudent, as there are operating expenses that need to be covered. It is not really a wise move to use operating money for this type of project. Per Ms. Allen, the BOS needs to communicate priorities to the Town for spending this money. Ms. Demong will talk to Linda Murphy about grass strip maintenance, and Ms. Allen opined that residents might be willing to maintain their piece of the grass and sidewalk.

Mooring Bylaw Review Discussion

Mr. McBride was unable to conference in on this discussion. Mr. Morin gave a summary of reasons for updating the Mooring Bylaws. Town Counsel and Mr. Morin met with committee members and came up with the draft for consideration this evening. Concern has been expressed by members of the Mooring Bylaw Review Committee (MBRC) that the Harbormaster position is excessive for the needs of the North River. The Harbormaster (Ron Mott) does not agree. The bylaw in the present draft would retain the title of Harbormaster, who would administer the moorings. Police actions would only be at the express consent of the Police Chief. The draft has removed the option for homeowners to convey their moorings along with their properties when sold, and the committee would like this to be put back. The board did not support this request. Mr. Morin gave a summary of changes and edits requested by the committee. They have proposed the change from the Title of Harbormaster to Mooring Agent, but that is not included in this draft. Whatever the position evolves to in the updated bylaws, it will report to the BOS, or perhaps the Town Administrator. Ms. Allen asked about timing; the Town will currently have a Harbormaster as the change won't occur in time for this season; this is correct, per Mr. Morin. The Town Administrator could provide clearer direction to the Harbormaster for this season, and the the Selectmen decided to change the title from Harbormaster to Mooring Administrator.

Per Mr. Brown, the North River activities don't need any of the police type functions for this job. Mr. Morin stated that the Harbormaster is currently appointed by the BOS, and the Town Administrator oversees billing and budget. The Harbormaster should report to the Town Administrator, not the Mooring Committee.

Comments:

1) Bob Molla, Mooring Committee Chair, voiced his concerns about the Harbormaster and state law which gives general police powers to them. He concurs with the plan to eliminate this title and change to a Mooring Agent. Long range expenses were reviewed for the Harbormaster position and he feels they are inappropriate, voicing the hope that the Town Administrator would approve vouchers before they go to Accounting. Discussion ensued about proper review of expenses on a regular basis.

2) Bill Arnold, another member of the committee, spoke about how the position had become more than it needed to be.

3) Ron Mott described what he currently does, such as telling boaters when they need to be wearing life vests; he does not do any enforcement. He had consulted his own counsel and felt that the position of Harbormaster could not be eliminated under state law. He also said he thought there would be undue liability risks for the town if the role were curtailed in the new bylaw.

This bylaw must be approved by Town Meeting in May before it replaces the current system, so for now the Town will still have a Harbormaster.

Discussion ensued about various options to change the draft of the bylaw, with decisions listed below, per Ms. Allen's summary:

These were done by consensus, not official votes, but Selectmen were all in agreement.

- 1) Change "Harbormaster" to "Mooring Administrator" (MA) (in Section 3 Definitions and, thus, all other places in the document).
- 2) Delete any state law references related to Harbormasters in Section 1; Authority.
- 3) Have BOS appoint the MA. Have MA report to TA.
- 4) Have committee come back to us with any suggested changes or additions to the Regulations (Section 4). Abolish the committee thereafter since they will have completed their charge and are not a standing committee of the Town.

If there are specific changes or additions to the regulations recommended by the Mooring Bylaw Review Committee, please let the BOS or Mr. Morin know. Mr. Molla will do that.

Harbormaster Reappointment

Motion; made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to reappoint Mr. Mott to the position of Harbormaster for calendar year 2016. Unanimously voted

Capital Budget Committee Appointment

Motion: made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to appoint Peter Bloomfield to the Capital Budget Committee for the open At Large slot expiring 6/30/17. The board thanked Mr. Bloomfield for volunteering.

OPEB Trust Fund Calling of Meeting

Ms. Allen talked about the formation of the Trust, and reminded the Board that the recent appointment of Kiersten Warendorf to the At Large position completed the group of trustees. Ms. Allen, serving this evening as BOS Chair, called the first meeting for the Trustees for tomorrow at 2pm at Town Hall, per the terms of the Trust.

Best Buddies Bike Ride Request

Mr. Brown summarized the event, which will be going through South Shore communities and gave an overview of the roads in Norwell that will be travelled. All departments have signed off.

Motion; made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Smellie, that the board approve the Best Buddies Bike Ride to take place on June 4, 2016, with provisions set forth by Police and Fire chiefs, and if EMS detail is needed they are required to contact the Norwell Fire Dept. Unanimously voted

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting on Jan. 29th, 2016 of Ms. Demong, Mr. McBride, Ms. Allen and Mr. Morin with Ziad Kary of EPG were approved. This meeting had been held in preparation for tonight's meeting about the Main St. project.

Motion made by Ms. Demong, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to approve the minutes from the above meeting. Unanimously voted.

Two other sets of minutes; February 3rd and 10th have not been reviewed yet, and were tabled until next week's meeting.

Other Business

Ms. Demong asked about the Warrant closing. Per Ms. Allen, it will be on the agenda next week. Mr. Morin has not received many Articles yet, and he will remind all departments and committees, schools, etc. of the due date. All discussed the mechanics of submitting the boilerplate articles. Ms. Allen reviewed other committees that might want to submit articles, such as the Planning Board for any zoning articles. Ms. Demong related the state's approval of Norwell's Complete Streets plan, with high marks from the state.

Other potential Articles were discussed by the board, and will be reviewed at next week's meeting. Ms. Allen suggested a road condition study. Per Mr. Morin, the cost of a road study is between \$20K and \$50K, and elaborated on the mechanics and evaluation in the study. The order of work is to start with projects that are easy to maintain, which then allows the time to get funding for the harder projects.

Ms. Demong asked about the Facilities Report status. Mr. Morin can distribute the most recent draft to all and gave some highlights of the report and funding sources. Other capital requests were discussed. Ms. Demong mentioned potential options for the third floor of Town Hall, perhaps using the PEG money.

Next Meeting Topics

Economic Development update, Articles review

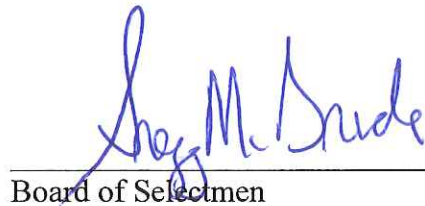
There will be a People GIS presentation for Town Hall staff at 10 am Monday March 7th. Please let all departments know. The BOS is invited. There is a possibility that the Water Dept. might pay for this product. Mr. Morin will invite everybody, and tell department heads to contact their boards.

Ms. Demong mentioned potential CPC Articles for the school playgrounds and brought up the issue of who is caring for the other playgrounds in Town. She proposed to the Recreation Commission that they come up with a plan and come to a BOS meeting. Discussion ensued, with all deciding that this discussion might be better facilitated if it is coordinated with the new Tree and Grounds person.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to adjourn at 9:34pm.

Unanimously voted



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