

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
March 30, 2016**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK

2016 JUN -6 AM 11:01

RECEIVED

Mr. McBride opened the meeting at 7:30pm, and introduced Ellen Allen, Jason Brown (via phone), Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the agenda, eliminating item "j" (indemnity agreement for Fieldstone Way and Forest Ridge) as written. Unanimously voted*

**REPORTS**

**Citizen Comments**

None

**Selectmen's Report**

Ms. Demong will update all on the meeting with the COA later in this meeting.

The Library Project Committee (LPC) is interviewing 3 candidates for the OPM position this Friday. Once the position is filled, the committee will move right on to hiring an architect. The Library Director, Ms. Allen, and the Librarian attended a Grant process meeting for more information on the application and award process.

Ms. Allen attended the MMA meeting, stated that there is a bill signed by 100 representatives to move forward with ?, but it would not be as advantageous to the Town unless it is retroactive. Stay tuned

**Town Administrator's Report**

All budget articles have been reviewed by the AB. There are one or two remaining AB meetings to review and discuss any Articles too late for inclusion in the printed copy.

Last week when the Warrant was opened and closed at the BOS meeting, the Article for the Main Street sidewalk was put on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Morin left it on both meeting Warrants in case the Town's bond counsel opines that it should go on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

**RPAA License Transfer, DA's Mart. 433 Washington Street**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to open the public hearing to transfer the RPAA license held by Houda Corp., dba DA's Mart, to New Well Corp., dba Express Mart.*

*Unanimously voted*

Mr. Smellie read the legal notice that appeared in the Patriot Ledger.

Mr. McBride invited representatives to come up to the table. Mr. Brown called in to participate in the meeting. Matthew Porter, legal counsel and Paresh Patel, New Well Corp. were present for the vote on the transfer of the wine and malt license and package store license, including the Pledge of License. Mr. Patel has 20 years of liquor sales experience. The board cited emails from various pertinent departments who had no issues with this transfer. William Murphy, the leasor of 433 Washington Street, has agreed to the assignment of the lease pending the licenses transfer to the new owner, Express Mart.

Ms. Allen asked about license infractions history for Mr. Patel; there are none. Mr. McBride cautioned Mr. Patel to be mindful and cognizant of the liquor license terms and conditions. All wished him well.

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, approve the transfer of the wines and malt license and the package store license from Houda Corp., dba DA's Mart to New Well Corp., dba*

*Express Mart, noting that both are annual licenses which expire on 12/31/16. Unanimously voted*

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#### **Recreation Update – George Grey, Recreation Director**

The board welcomed Mr. Grey, who thanked all for the opportunity to give the BOS a status update on the Recreation Department. A very busy spring program has begun for the department. Mr. Grey gave a summary of programs and participants, noting that all programs have increased enrollment. The department has also launched a Facebook page to spread the word about the program calendar and content.

Summer is the busiest season for the department with Spring following close behind; there are about 6000 participants in total. Mr. Grey's department highlights included the CPC approved application Article to rehab the Reynolds playground, the merging of the after-school programs at Cole and Vinal Schools with oversight by the Recreation Department, as well as the coordination of the Town's athletic programs and field use. In response to board questions about the tremendous growth, Mr. Grey cited word of mouth, expanding successful programs and improving marketing efforts. The department is looking for ways to expand both the youth and adult program offerings. Mr. McBride thanked Mr. Grey and Administrative Assistant Judy Volpe for their hard work.

Ms. Demong thanked the Recreation Dept. for all their hard work. Oversight of the four playgrounds located in the Town was discussed. Gaffield Park is currently under the care and control of the BOS, and may need a more active custodian as it is a very busy and popular playground on the South Shore. There are two school playgrounds; one at Cole School and one at Vinal School. The board asked Mr. Grey for his input regarding playground maintenance. Mr. Grey expressed concern about needed maintenance slipping through the cracks, which could be better controlled by having the Recreation Dept. as custodian, and cited repairs needed at Gaffield Park as an example. Mr. Grey wants to present a positive image for the Recreation Dept. All discussed prior playground repairs and how they were underwritten and addressed. The CPA funding approved for the Reynolds playground can serve as a learning tool for future CPA funding of playground rehab. As the CPA does not cover maintenance, this ongoing issue will need to be addressed for all four playground locations. Mr. Brown is in favor of unifying the care and custody of the four playgrounds. Currently all are under different custodians, and none seem to be a top priority. The current complaint being resolved is an example of a problem that could have been addressed in a timely manner if departmental custody had been established. Ms. Allen stated that this is a topic for discussion on the agenda after Town Meeting. Mr. Morin has received two complaints about Gaffield Park re: broken equipment and potholes by the parking lot. Both problems were handled by Mr. Morin coordinating with the Highway Dept. Current playground issues are dealt with by the Town Administrator. All agreed that proper resources need to be allocated so repairs can be made. The Town received a loss prevention grant thru MIAA for \$1250, which might fund high frequency inspections. Mr. McBride stated that it will be a challenge no matter who takes on custody because it is not a priority. At this point the board asked Mr. Grey to wait while the public hearing was opened, continued, and closed.

#### **8:06pm Vote to Layout Forest Ridge**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to open the public hearing to layout Forest Ridge. Unanimously voted*

The legal notice was read by Mr. Smellie. Ms. Allen stated that the paperwork has not been completed, and this hearing will be continued to the next meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to continue the public hearing to layout Forest Ridge to the next meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to close the public hearing. Unanimously voted*

**Recreation Update, cont'd.**

Per Mr. Grey, the Recreation Director has a relationship with all of the sports organizations in Town. Ms. Demong stated that every youth sport has its own Board of Directors. Each organization votes on a liaison with the Recreation Dept. Woodworth Fields 1, 2 and 3 are under the care and custody of the Recreation Commission. Little League "acquired" the use of the Woodworth fields through an inheritance by gift from the original owner. Historic NE has some rights to any improvements that are made on these fields, which are discussed at the annual meeting and inspection. (the deed restriction is held by Historic NE). Therefore, the Town is stuck with what was put into place at the time and Little League is a special case. To be continued below:

**8:11pm Public hearing: vote to Layout Fieldstone Way**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to open the public hearing. Unanimously voted*

The legal notice was read by Mr. Smellie.

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to continue the public hearing to layout Fieldstone Way to the next meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:10pm. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to close the public hearing. Unanimously voted*

**Recreation Update, cont'd.**

Comments from the board, Mr. Grey and the audience were heard on the fields scheduling issues. Hopefully the fields rehab approved by the CPC will be approved at Town Meeting and will help the overcrowded schedules of all sports, in addition to allowing the girls softball teams field access on an equal status with other Town sports. If all fields are deemed equal in quality, it should make scheduling easier (theoretically). All recognize that even with the "quality" issue remedied, the "quantity" issue still exists. Discussion ensued about the difficulties and improvement needed with fields scheduling and the history of ongoing challenges to give every group equal practice and playing time. Field use is a moving target, and every year is a new challenge. The BOS asked if Mr. Grey would be willing to serve as a member of the AFC. Mr. McBride stated that the BOS would try to organize a meeting of the minds, and Ms. Allen reminded all that the CPC approved an amended request to grant \$210K to do major rehab at Woodworth 3 and 4. Implicit in that funding approval is that Girls Softball will get more time on those fields, which will create a ripple effect on the teams currently using those fields as well as other sports. Supt. Matt Keegan wants to participate in the conversations and would like to be part of the solution. Mr. Grey has had conversations with several individuals, and all recognize that even with improvements rehab will take some of the fields offline. There must be some short term loss for long term gain. Ms. Allen reiterated that she is really impressed with all of the new Recreation Dept. initiatives. It is one of only 3 departments not required, and it operates on a very small budget. The Town is getting an incredible value, and all need to recognize what a great return on investment this department is!

The board thanked Mr. Grey for all his hard work and department success.

**8:31pm Sergeant Interview - John McDevitt**

Mr. McBride welcomed Officer McDevitt, and stated that each candidate will be asked the same series of questions by the BOS. Officer McDevitt gave a summary of his background and qualifications for the position. Mr. McBride thanked him for coming in.

Eleven questions were asked by the board and answered by Officer McDevitt. (the question template is attached to these minutes)

**8:47pm Officer Bryan Resnick**

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Mr. McBride welcomed Officer Resnick, and stated that each candidate will be asked the same series of questions by the BOS. Officer Resnick gave a summary of his background and qualifications for the position. Mr. McBride thanked him for coming in.

Eleven questions were asked by the board and answered by Officer Resnick.

**9:08pm Officer John Carnes**

Mr. McBride welcomed Officer Carnes, and stated that each candidate will be asked the same series of questions by the BOS. Officer Carnes gave a summary of his background and qualifications for the position. Mr. McBride thanked him for coming in.

Eleven questions were asked by the board and answered by Officer Carnes.

**9:30pm Officer Dan Dooley**

Mr. McBride welcomed Officer Dooley, and stated that each candidate will be asked the same series of questions by the BOS. Officer Dooley gave a summary of his background and qualifications for the position. Mr. McBride thanked him for coming in.

Eleven questions were asked by the board and answered by Officer Dooley.

Ms. Allen stated that the impressive credentials of the candidates should make residents very proud of the Town's Police Department and Chief Ross. All are very good candidates. Per Chief Ross, the first line supervisor is a critical position, and he therefore recommended John McDevitt. Officer McDevitt has a tremendous amount of experience as well as other outstanding credentials, and has earned a great deal of respect in the department. He needs very little supervision. Chief Ross would like to make appointment tonight. He also anticipates the ability to promote other department personnel in the near future.

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to appoint John McDevitt to the position of Sergeant. Unanimously voted*

Per Chief Ross, Officer Phelps will transition to the SRO position. Ms. Allen asked Chief Ross to extend their thanks to all candidates and kudos for jobs well done.

**Tick Pilot Program**

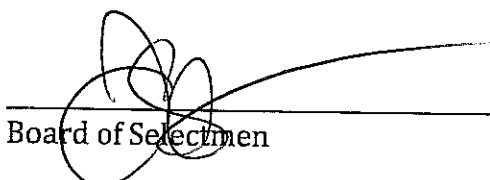
Discussion of the program was tabled until the BOS meeting next week. Discussion will be first on the agenda.

**Hours for the Special Election**

Mr. McBride reiterated the hours for the upcoming special state election on May 10, 2016; 7am to 8pm.

**Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to adjourn at 9:55pm. unanimously voted*

  
Board of Selectmen