

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2016**

Mr. Brown opened the meeting at 7:35pm, and introduced Ellen Allen, Gregg McBride, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the agenda as written.  
Unanimously voted*

**Citizen Comments**

Ginny Marie, 710 Grove Street, who has been a crossing guard in the Town for many years, came to the meeting to petition for a 50 foot sidewalk by Kappy's Liquors because of her concern for pedestrian safety. She stated that she is very worried that someone is going to get hurt. Ms. Marie also said that she saw multiple traffic violations during the past week, including drivers continuing through the crosswalk occupied by pedestrians. She spoke to the Highway Department to ask for an orange barrel to place in the crosswalk to slow drivers down. Mr. Brown thanked her for bringing this to the attention of the BOS. Chief Ross was in attendance at the meeting, and spoke about extra measures that his department could use to help with the situation. The BOS will put this on a future agenda. Ms. Demong added that the next Complete Streets Committee meeting is this Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, and Highway Surveyor Glenn Ferguson will be in attendance. The committee is about to engage a consultant to discuss pedestrian safety. The corner of Grove and High Streets used to have a sidewalk when the road was a two lane road. Children are not safe at the crossing! Mr. McBride said that the Highway Department will get her a barrel immediately. The Board thanked her for coming in.

**Selectmen's report**

Ms. Demong stated that the tick education program/shoe spray event was a huge success; over 50 people attended and 100 pairs of shoes were sprayed.

Ms. Allen recapped the highlights of the MMA board meeting and LGAC meeting at the state house. The land use/zoning bill was passed in the Senate, but the good news is that it is not queued up in the House, which will give the MMA time to discuss municipal concerns with representatives. The biggest problem is with the requirement for towns to permit multi-family housing and OSRD's "by right" and without towns having any rights to mandate inclusionary zoning; this would harm communities trying to obtain or maintain their 10% AH inventory. The state is \$450 million behind on revenue collections. The real impact is on the FY17 budget, and the Governor has pledged not to raise taxes so municipal/education aid could be reduced. The MMA Board voted unanimously against the November state ballot questions that would legalize recreational marijuana and allow more charter schools. The former would allow recreational marijuana facilities "by right" if the DPH had not established regulations by January 2018. The latter would be an unfunded mandate that communities cannot afford. The new public records law goes into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Town will have to designate a public records point person. It is recommended that a standard request form be created.

The BOS congratulated the Norwell High School girls lacrosse team, who is going to state finals.

The Board extended condolences to Captain Bentings in the Fire Department and his family on the loss of his son.

**Town Administrator Reports**

Mr. Morin updated the Board on the grant received for a "best practices" capital plan consultant. He chose Mark Abrams, a financial advisor who is well known for community capital

improvement plans. Mr. Abrams' bid came in with the best fit for the Town and also the lowest price. Mr. Morin has informed the state of this decision. Mr. Abrams is very thorough, methodical and quick. Ms. Allen and Mr. Morin gave an overview of the proposed capital plan scope of services. They will work with Mr. Abrams to come up with a plan that fits town's policies and resources. Mr. Abrams will attend a BOS meeting in August.

#### **Applicant to the Board of Registrars**

Mr. Robert Lannin, 187 Pine Street, 45 year resident of the Town – applicant for the 1 vacancy. Mr. Brown said that the Town reached out to the Norwell Republican committee for a qualified applicant, but there were none. Lannin is now retired and interested in the issue of increasing the numbers of voters at both local and national elections and the problem of low voter turnout. Ms. Demong asked about the duties of the Board of Registrars. Mr. Morin answered that they attend voter registration events at Town Hall and various locations throughout the community. They also resolve any disputes with voting, and settle questions about compliance of individuals with the election laws and their eligibility. They meet infrequently.

Ms. Allen added that High School seniors turning 18 can register to vote at a school sponsored program, which is attended by the registrars. Perhaps there are opportunities for other events of this type to encourage higher voter turnout. Mr. McBride thanked Mr. Lannin for volunteering, and added that he is appreciative of his independent political views.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Robert Lannin to the Board of Registrars for a term ending both June 30, 2016 and a following term ending June 30, 2019. Unanimously voted*

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Lannin to see the Town Clerk about getting sworn in to this position.

#### **Norwell Police 5K race – EA Joseph Drive**

Mr. McBride is fully supportive of this race, but the road is narrow. Chief Ross stated that he sent a memo to residents last Thursday and told them to contact either himself or Mr. Morin with any concerns, and to date no residents have contacted either person. Chief Ross gave a summary of the race and other events of the day. The proceeds will go to two different charities; one for children with cancer and one for veterans.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve a Norwell Police 5K road race event for October 22, as proposed to the BOS. Unanimously voted*

Mr. McBride asked Chief Ross about traffic violators at the crossing discussed earlier by Ms. Marie at Route 53 and High Street. Chief Ross thinks a barrel will help. He will also put an unmarked cruiser there to observe and assist with traffic issues. The Board thanked him for coming in.

#### **Public Hearing – National Grid Pole Hearing, South and Mill Street, cont'd.**

Since National Grid has not come out to look at the site with the homeowner and then attend the BOS meeting, this hearing will be continued to the meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Brown has been in touch with Highway Surveyor Glenn Ferguson to look at the intersection and island and discuss ways to slow down the traffic. This discussion item will also be on the agenda for the June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Adequate signage will also be needed for the island. All discussed this site and the need for National Grid to look at it as well. Ernie Butler, South Street resident, asked where the light on the pole would go. Mr. Brown replied that he and Mr. Ferguson will direct National Grid on the light placement.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to open the public hearing at 8:05pm. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to continue the public hearing to June 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:15pm. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to close the public hearing at 8:07pm.  
Unanimously voted*

### **Right to Farm Signage**

Mr. Morin gave a short summary of Vin Bucca's idea for a competition for a road sign design that would announce that Norwell is a "Right to Farm" community (since this bylaw was passed at Town Meeting.) He invited Mr. Bucca, 238 Main Street, to tell the story of how the sign came to be. Vo-Tech student Marina Benino came up with the design in her graphic arts class. The Chamber of Commerce funded the sign design and construction. Signs will be installed at all the major road entries to the Town. The BOS posed for a picture with the student and her family. The Board offered congratulations on the wonderful design and her award.

### **2016 Committee Reappointments.**

The Board reviewed the lengthy list of committee reappointments, as well as volunteers not re-upping for another term. Mr. Brown asked the Board to encourage volunteers for these committees. Ms. Allen read the names of volunteers who had served the Town and thanked them for their service! At the request of the Town Administrator, the reappointment of the Animal Control Officer was postponed.

*Motions; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to reappoint each other committee member as indicated for their specific term on the attached Committee member list.  
Unanimously voted.*

**Economic Development Consultant** – Per Mr. Morin, the state has a ponderous vetting process. The Town fits perfectly, but the consulting firm, the Urban Land Institute, is not moving very fast. The Town has to do a lot of "heavy lifting" first in any case. The ULI likes to have meetings once a quarter and won't expedite their schedule. The Town might have to encumber the state grant money because it might span the fiscal year. Mr. Morin will let the DLS know.

### **Tokio Tora- Change of Name**

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the change of name requested by New Good Fortune, LLC, dba Tokio Tora Restaurant, to ASAKA Restaurant, 434 Washington Street. Unanimously voted*

### **Repurpose of the Zoning Bylaw Review committee**

Mr. Brown would like the Board to consider repurposing this committee and call them the Bylaw Review Committee, so that they would be able to look at both zoning and general bylaws. Mr. Brown gave a recap of the committee's history. This committee is currently very active, and is working on both structure and content to reformat the structure for recodification. The General Bylaw Committee is really inactive at this point and the Town can't fill the vacancies. The Zoning Bylaw Review committee is willing and able to do both tasks. A new member was appointed to the General Bylaw Review committee many months ago, so perhaps he could be contacted and asked if he would like to fill a committee vacancy on a combined BLRC. Mr. McBride suggested that the General Bylaw committee members could merge with this committee. Mr. Smellie reported that Denise Nestor has a fair amount of paperwork about the general bylaws that has been brought together over many years.

Mr. Brown suggested the following steps;

1. Vote to re-charge and rename the Zoning Bylaw Review committee.
2. Dissolve the General Bylaw Committee and absorb its new member. The BOS member of the GBC, Mr. Smellie, would no longer be needed since Mr. Brown is already on the ZBLRC. Chief Ross is a GBC member. Per Mr. McBride, Town Clerk Pat Anderson is the only person who has the whole picture on bylaws and she is not a voting member. She is dealing with General Code, the company hired to re-codify all the bylaws. All discussed joining the committees into one and

maybe expanding the ZBR committee to include these people. Mr. Brown could contact the new person on the GBC to ask if he would like to participate. Discussion ensued about various committee structures.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to dissolve the General Bylaw Review Committee. Unanimously voted.*

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to rename and repurpose the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee to become the Bylaw Review Committee. Unanimously voted.*

This item will be added to a future agenda.

**Upcoming Meetings:** Mr. Brown and Ms. Allen have been working on a task worksheet that could be used as a management tool in conjunction with the BOS goals and objectives. Mr. McBride reminded all about Open Meeting law and the requirement not to deliberate on emails. The Goal and Task Tracking worksheet will be put on the next agenda. Ms. Allen will email a draft of this to all.

### **Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn at 8:38pm. Unanimously voted*



Jason Brown, Chair