

**Norwell Board of Selectmen**  
**3/11/20**  
**Open Session Meeting Minutes**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK  
2020 APR -9 PM 1:57

Ms. Allen continued the Open Session in the Osborn Room at 7:34pm.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to approve the agenda as written, Unanimously voted*

**Citizens Comments - None**

**BOS comments - None**

**Town Administrator**

Mr. Morin updated all on the corona virus emergency. The latest updates from the CDC indicate that there are no reported cases in Plymouth County or Norwell. The Town is working to keep abreast of the latest communications. We continue to be updated and follow guidance coming from the governor's office. Town Hall is continuing to operate and working with employees who may have health conditions by limiting their contact or altering hours on a case by case basis. The Health Department distributed cleaning supplies to each office as well as having the Facilities department do heavy duty additional cleaning. Town Hall and other departments may have to operate from an off-site location to keep the Town functioning without a full staff. We will continue to work and also make sure that everyone has accurate information; reacting to what is real, not just reported. Public safety employees already have disinfecting equipment and good practices in place, which has gone very well to date. We are moving towards the likelihood that we will have to work under more stringent conditions. Mr. Brown noted that the individual treated at Norwell urgent care has not received test results yet. As of yesterday there were no cases in the Town.

**Elevated Access Discussion**

Rob Proctor and Bill Ryan were present to discuss the proposed changes to the current bylaw. Mr. Ryan recapped the status of medical grow licenses with regard to the Commonwealth. Elevated Access would like to have a cultivation facility in the Town, without the medical limitation, to sell wholesale product. There would be no retail sales. Mr. Proctor hopes that the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) will allow companies to cultivate for both medical and adult use. Ms. Allen stated that the Town would need to vote any changes to zoning and general bylaws as well as have a ballot question for the May Town election. Mr. Graham rejoined the meeting at 7:45pm.

Bylaw changes would include language about cultivation manufacturing for medical and adult use only, with no retail sales. Mr. Morin needs feedback from Town Counsel on this language and asked Mr. Ryan to expand on this rough draft by next week. Ms. Allen would like this proposal to go to Town Meeting in May, and asked Mr. Ryan to contact Town Counsel to discuss the bylaw draft, which would need to go before the Planning Board for a public hearing. All discussed the tight timing with regard to review by both the Planning and Advisory Boards (in reverse order). Hopefully the ballot question could still be added to the ballot at next week's meeting. The board is comfortable proceeding with this proposal. Mr. Ryan will call Attorney Galvin and the Mr. Morin will alert the Planning Board to get this done ASAP.

**Norwell Historical Commission Annual Award for outstanding historic preservation - 25 Washington Street, 1799 David Prouty house**

New owner Marleen Ketcham restored this beautiful house on Washington Street, which used to be the "purple house". She thanked everyone for their support and invited the Town to come visit the store for a tour of this lovely historic property, which now houses her kitchen design business. The NHC gave Ms. Ketcham a plaque for the house in recognition of her work.

### **Cemetery Committee Updates**

Present; Wendy Bawabe, Chair, Chad Foreman, Denise Nestor

Ms. Bawabe highlighted the small changes to be made to the Cemetery rules and regulations.

There will be two cemetery Warrant Articles to repurpose funding already approved by the Advisory Board for a columbarium at the Washington Street cemetery and for approval to construct a mausoleum site at Stetson Meadows.

Rules and regulations changes include policies on flowers and shrubs for both cemeteries. The board is in agreement about this policy change.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the changes to the cemetery rules and regulations as submitted by the Cemetery Committee. Unanimously voted*

### **Cemetery Capital Budget Articles**

The committee has proposed two capital budget articles, funded out of plot sales, for \$30K and \$20K, to repurpose funding approved in FY2018 for projects that were not needed.

Articles 1 and 2; repurpose funds for construction of a columbarium at the Washington Street cemetery for a total cost of \$55K. The additional funds needed would come from last year's perpetual care interest transfer Article and can cover the cost of the landscaping. These Articles would create a new service provided for cremations and cover the purchase of necessary small equipment. Landscaping costs can be covered using the perpetual care fund. The income from this project would stay with the cemetery. This would only be offered at the Washington Street cemetery right now. The committee would like BOS support for this project.

Article 3; request to allow construction of a mausoleum at Stetson Meadows Cemetery. The committee would like BOS support for this proposal, and noted that there is definitely a market for this burial option.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the plan for a proposed mausoleum at the Stetson Meadows cemetery presented by the Cemetery Committee. Unanimously voted*

### **Road Race Approval**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the Best Buddies bike race on 6/6/20, 7am-9am, subject to conditions indicated by the Police, Fire and Highway departments, for the portion of the race that goes through the town of Norwell. Unanimously voted*

The board noted that no fees were charged as this race is low impact on the Town.

### **Town Center update and next steps**

Ms. Demong updated the board on the \$75K earmark from state Sen. O'Connor. The Complete Streets Committee began this project with plans drawn up seven years ago, using updated feedback from residents and merchants in Town Center to create a new plan that is nearly ready to be rolled out on 3/27. The priorities are traffic calming and trying to make Town Center pedestrian friendly. Traffic speed is the number one concern. The biggest changes are shrinking the intersection of River and Main Streets and addressing the dangerous angle parking. \$50K of the earmark will be spent on planning and design and \$25K on hardscape. The plans will be posted on the website when they are ready.

### **Future Meeting Agendas**

Future meeting agendas include the Parkview public hearing. The board plans to meet every Wednesday for the near future.

**Adjourn to Executive Session**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:18pm, not returning to Open Session. Unanimously voted*

*Ms. Allen polled the board, Demong voting yes, Brown voting yes, Graham voting yes, Allen voting yes.*

RECEIVED

*Ellen H. Allen*

---

**Ellen Allen, Chair**