

Norwell Board of Selectmen
4/9/20
Emergency Open Session – Remote meeting

TOWN OF NORWELL
2020 APR 23 PM 12:26
RECEIVED

Present: Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Jason Brown, Joe Rull, Bruce Graham, Peter Morin

Open Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 6:35pm. She announced that all votes will be roll call votes as the meeting participants are using remote access software. The meeting is being recorded and the audio file will be available on the Town website. Ms. Allen noted that this meeting will be conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq.

Approval of Agenda

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimously voted by roll call vote

Ms. Allen stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss approving a ballot question for a future Town election. The question, which could be placed on the election ballot in June or September, addresses bylaw changes with regard to the cultivation of marijuana in the Town as proposed by Elevated Access. If the board wants the question on the ballot in June, the Articles need to be finalized by this Saturday, April 11th. This original deadline for the May 16th Town election stands. The Advisory Board will be voting on these proposed bylaw changes at their meeting tonight. Ms. Allen recapped the Article drafts for the board, noting that the original bylaws adopted two years ago would have to be changed.

This question could go on the June 27th ballot, or the board could have additional time to consider this proposal and put the question on the ballot for one of the fall elections, either September or November. As Town Meeting is now scheduled for June 15th, the Articles will have passed or failed to pass by the September election ballot deadline.

Mr. Morin would prefer to maximize the time to consider this proposal and recommended postponing the question to one of the fall elections. If it doesn't pass at Town Meeting, the Town would avoid a moot question on the June election ballot. A larger turnout is predicted for the fall elections, which may be a better scenario for this proposal. Mr. Morin noted that the Town is doing Elevated Access a favor by allowing them to get this proposal onto the Warrant by May 3rd for the June Town Meeting. They have been slow to produce a workable draft. Additional time to review and consider the proposal would give all parties a fair view of the Town's opinion. Ms. Allen asked for feedback from the board; most agreed with Mr. Morin and are comfortable waiting until the September election.

Per Mr. Morin, no BOS vote is necessary at this point since the election is not until September. The Advisory Board will review and discuss the draft Articles this evening. Mr. Morin will follow up with Elevated Access.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to adjourn at 6:42pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.


Ellen Allen, Chair