

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Remote Open Session
9/16/20**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

2020 OCT 14 PM 12:12

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

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Open Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:00pm. She announced that all votes will be roll call votes as the meeting participants are using remote access software. The meeting was 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

The board postponed discussion of the Fire Chief's contract until the next BOS Executive Session. Mr. Morin will give a brief description of the contract this evening.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the agenda for September 16, 2020 as amended. Unanimously voted by roll call vote

BOS Reports

Ms. Allen announced with great sadness that Nancy Hemingway, the Town's Conservation Agent for many years, has passed away. She made outstanding contributions to the Town and will be very much missed. She lost her battle to cancer after a long and courageous fight. The Conservation Commission (Con Com) will be dedicating the new wildflower field in her memory next spring. Mr. Morin commented that Ms. Hemingway will be much missed at Town Hall. Con Com Chair Marynel Wahl is acting as the Conservation agent while the department begins the search for a successor.

Ms. Demong congratulated the School Department on a successful first day of school using the hybrid/remote attendance model. An enormous amount of work went into this effort.

Ms. Demong reported that the Advisory Board Nominating Committee appointed two new members to serve 3 year terms on the Advisory Board; Andy Reardon and Elizabeth Feeherry.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Morin reported that the Town is addressing the traffic concerns arising from the opening of the schools and the increase in drop-offs to accompany the school bus traffic. Please be patient and follow the guidelines from the school and police departments for drop-off routes.

Citizens Comments

Rachel Winters, 299 Old Oaken Bucket, voiced concerns about Old Oaken Bucket traffic with regard to the school opening and ongoing speed and volume issues. This is not under the purview of the BOS, so the topic will be discussed when the Traffic Study Committee is on the BOS agenda. The committee and the BOS are trying to find ways to alleviate the ongoing traffic situations on the busy roads in the Town.

Discussion/Action Items

Approve Contract for Norwell Fire Chief Jeffrey Simpson

Mr. Morin reported that Chief Simpson's 3 year contract is similar to retired Fire Chief Reardon's contract. He gave the board further details of the proposed contract with salary amounts, noting

that the compensation is still on the lower end of similar contracts in the surrounding towns. It is in the best interest of the Town to adopt and improve this contract. The board will review and discuss this contract at the next Executive Session. The contract will then be approved at the Open Session with a formal vote.

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Pine Street Field-remediation project discussion and PFAS – Board of Health

Peter Dillon, Board of Water Commissioners Chair, joined the meeting and gave the history of this field, which has been in existence since the 40's and has a long history of landfill until it was closed in 1976 and capped in 1977. The playing fields were put in after that in the late 70's. The 1989 incident which involved old time politics resulted in the BOS closing the field that was created over the landfill, which came to the attention of the DEP. The DEP cited the lack of venting and other infractions over the landfill, which resulted in the Recreation Dept. closing the field for about a year. Mr. Morin applied for and received a grant for an initial evaluation to determine wetland delineation and determine what the town would need to do in order to bring the landfill into Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) compliance and thus allow rehabilitation of the recreational area. As of last week, engineers got started on the project to assess the current status.

Next Steps:

- ☐ Test wells have been installed and will be sampled over the next couple of weeks to determine any current leakage.
- ☐ The main goal is to come into compliance with DEP.
- ☐ Questions were asked and answered about the field rehab process.
- ☐ We should have a complete analysis by late fall.
- ☐ At least part of a field rehab project would qualify for CPA funding.
- ☐ Mr. Dillon noted that the DEP will give the town a reasonable amount of time to do this remediation. The goal is to try to avoid an administrative order from DEP by approaching them first.
- ☐ Mr. Dillon said that he thinks there should be BOS involvement and Ms. Demong offered to be the BOS point person.

PFAS

Mr. Dillon reported that the Water Department will be implementing a pilot study to test for PFAS over the next year. The focus right now is testing for THMs because of the necessary chlorination to kill the microorganisms and bacteria that cause waterborne diseases.

Current Facts - THMs:

- ☐ The DEP standard is 80 parts per billion (a good comparison is 80 drops of water in a swimming pool). The Town's water runs around 30 parts per billion.
- ☐ To get ahead and prevent future problems, this pilot plan will be used to remove organics that create THMs.
- ☐ This process acts like a big Brita water filter, which works pretty well.

Current Facts: PFAS:

- ☐ Tend to be forever chemicals and are very common.
- ☐ Chemicals originate from household items and cosmetics, and fire retardant clothing and foam (mostly at airports)
- ☐ The state is looking to develop a standard of 20 parts per trillion.
- ☐ Town needs to sample on a schedule; Mr. Dillon doesn't anticipate an issue.
- ☐ Need to develop a contingency plan. The current treatment is the GAC (granulated activated carbon) filter (same process as the Brita water filter).
- ☐ Questions were asked and answered about pilot program expanding to address this. Pilot plant would be on the South Street or Grove Street wells.

- ☐ This would be "polishing the water", which addresses several problems but won't be cheap.
- ☐ July Town Meeting Article - approved to do the pilot test. If it is successful, a design will be created and put out to bid. The first pilot step will be about \$150K.
- ☐ Estimated total water treatment cost would be about \$3M.
- ☐ July Town Meeting Article - approved to run another water line under River Street towards the end of Stetson Shrine Lane at a cost of about \$400K. The design is done; next steps are a permit and easement from Mass Highway.

The board thanked Mr. Dillon for his time and expertise. Mr. Dillon gave kudos to Mr. Margro and Supt. Keegan for the excellent school hybrid plan to keep students and administration safely social distanced.

Approve Stabilization Policy

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

Accept resignation from NHC – Noel Ripley

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to accept with regret the resignation of Noel Ripley from the Norwell Historical Commission. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

The board discussed potential NHC members and appointing Anne Greene as a full member. This topic will be on the next BOS meeting agenda.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 9-2-20 - Executive and Open Session Minutes

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the minutes for the 9/2/20 Executive Session and Open Meeting minutes as presented and amended. By roll call vote; Brown abstained as he was absent from the meeting, Graham yes, Demong yes, Allen yes. Motion carried

Future Meeting Agendas

The board discussed future meeting agenda items. The board will continue to meet every other week for the foreseeable future. The next scheduled meeting will be 9/30/20.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn at 8:14pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.



Ellen Allen, Chair

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