

Norwell Board of Selectmen
1/27/21
Open Session – Remote meeting

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

2021 MAR 25 P 3:58

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

RECEIVED

Open Session

The meeting was opened by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:04pm. 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 Alison Demong, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimously voted by roll call vote

BOS Reports

Ms. Allen reminded all that property abatement requests must be delivered to the Assessors' Office not later than 2/1/21.

The All Are Welcome committee is hosting another webinar. For more information visit their page on the Town website.

Norwell's new Police Chief Ed Lee was sworn in on Monday. The outdoor ceremony was attended by Chief Lee's family, the Town Administrator, board members and many of the officers in the department. He will join the BOS at their 2/10/21 meeting to meet the community.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Morin applied for a cybersecurity grant to get the Town up to baseline security levels. This is one of several initiatives to enhance and update our IT resources at Town Hall.

The Town has hired two new department heads since the first of the year. Please welcome new Conservation Agent Will Saunders and Principal Assessor Meredith Rafiki.

Citizen Comments – None

COVID update

Health Agent Ben Margro updated the board on the rollout plan for distribution and administration of the COVID vaccine.

To date, first responders, school nurses and the CERT team were vaccinated on 1/11/21 and 1/14/21. Mr. Margro reported additional details about the clinics, noting that no vaccines were wasted. This is of particular concern because of the specific method required to store and administer the vaccine; the serum cannot be preloaded into a syringe and transported to a clinic location. Each vaccine must be prepared and administered at the clinic. Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are being used; the Moderna interval between shots 1 and 2 is 21 days, the Pfizer shot is 28 days. There is a 15 minute observation period (done for these clinics by Fire Department employees) after the vaccine is given to watch for adverse reactions.

Phase 2 begins February 1, 2021.

- Residents who are 75+ are the target group. The Town is reaching out to other partners and towns at the local and regional levels to coordinate maximizing the number of vaccines available in the shortest period of time.
- The Middle School has been designated as a clinic site and is ready to go with the full support of the school administration.

- The issue right now is DPH distribution of the limited vaccine supply. The state of MA has been capped at this time, so additional vaccines can't be ordered until more stock is delivered not much more can be done.
- He listed options such as CVS and Gillette Stadium for Phase 2 participants to try for appointments and advised those calling to keep trying!
- He is working with the COA and Fire Department, hoping to provide transportation to vaccination sites for those unable to attend on their own.
- The COA has posted current information and a reverse 911 call will go out to alert residents.
- Homebound seniors should contact the COA. Hopefully family members can help out to provide transportation.
- Mr. Margro is targeting the end of the week to have the form for the Town's clinics available on the Town website.
- Mr. Margro will update the map on the website.

Questions were asked about the vaccine prep and administration to residents.

Mr. Margro detailed the basic information for the Moderna/Pfizer vaccine serum:

- Moderna has more adaptable storage environments; clinic personnel must be present at delivery site so vaccines can be put into cold storage.
- No transport of vaccines once delivered. 30 minute thaw requirement. Administer on site, 6 hours life for one vial.
- Groups of 10 every 15 minutes, distribute proof of vaccine cards, preschedule for second shot in advance.
- There is only a 4 day window after 21 day waiting period between vaccinations for Moderna (28 days for Pfizer) when the receiving the second vaccination will be effective.
- After receiving the vaccination, there is a 15 minute observation period. Arm pain or slight fatigue. Mild side effects, less with Moderna, more with Pfizer.

Questions were asked about senior vaccines, form completion, preregistering. Anyone not wanting to wait may try to register on one of the sites. Keep an eye on the vaccination map as it is rolled out by the state. Hopefully the plan will become more straightforward as we progress. There are 2 meetings a week with DPH on this situation and hopefully the caps will soon be removed for local BOH's. Everyone thanked Mr. Margro for his hard work.

Questions were asked and answered about COVID quarantine for children with regard to schools and the rising case numbers within family units. An announcement will be made next week that will be a collaborative decision by the schools and health agent. Some residents offered services to help vaccinate.

Mr. Rull joined the meeting again at this point.

Application to Conservation Commission – Tricia DeGuilio

Motion, made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Patricia DeGuilio to the Conservation Commission for a term expiring 6/30/22. Unanimously voted
Ms. Allen announced that anyone interested in joining the Conservation Commission as a committee alternate should contact the Commission Chair, Marynel Wahl. All welcomed the new Conservation Agent Will Saunders.

CAFR and Policy Compliance Update

Finance Director Donna Mangan joined the meeting to report on the CAFR award received for the 4th straight year, giving particulars of the report. Melanson and Heath, auditors for the Town, will attend an upcoming BOS meeting to review the FY2020 financial statements. Ms. Mangan

reviewed the Reserve Funds policy information as well as the Debt Service policy information. Copies of the spreadsheets will be attached to these minutes when they are posted on the website. Mr. Morin commented on the fact that adherence to these policies has really paid off, especially with regard to the COVID impact.

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK
2021 MAR 25 P 3:58

Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Ms. Demong asked for board support to put forward an Article for the Board of Selectmen to change its name to the Selectboard. She stated that about 1/3 of the towns in MA have changed this board title to a gender neutral name. Ms. Allen supports this change, which requires a lengthy but doable process to work through a charter change with a Warrant Article and then state legislature approval. There were no comments from other board members. Mr. Brown would like some time to think about this proposal. This will be a topic for further discussion on the 2/10/21 agenda.

Approval of meeting minutes

Motion, made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to approve the meeting minutes for the following meetings; 1/6/21, 1/7/21, 1/13/21, both Open and Executive Sessions. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Future meetings:

The next BOS meeting will be on 2/10/21. Agenda topics will include an inclusionary zoning discussion by Mr. Graham and an update on the state's plan for vaccinations at the local level. The Health Agent will join the meeting to answer questions.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn at 8:57pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Ellen H. Allen

Ellen Allen, Chair