

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting Minutes
3/7/18**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

2018 MAR 30 AM 9:58

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Present: Jason Brown, Alison Demong, Gregg McBride, Ellen Allen, Peter Smellie, Peter Morin

Open Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Brown at 7:03pm.

Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the agenda as written.

Unanimously voted

Mr. Brown announced that no public comment will be heard on the topic of the purchase of the Carleton property as the wide range of opinions have been expressed and all are aware of the meeting attendees' positions on the topic.

Mr. Brown gave everyone a recap of the storm events over the last weekend, adding that this monumental storm made emergency response virtually unavailable. He commended all of the first responders, who did a superb job fielding over 170 calls in three days. Within the next two weeks, both the Police and Fire Chiefs, the Highway Surveyor and CERT team member Art Joseph will be invited to a Selectmen's meeting for a personal thank you and to give a recap of storm events over the weekend and talk about future storm planning.

Mr. Brown also thanked National Grid for their hard work to get everyone's power restored. He asked those 6 houses who are still without power to hang in there – power is on the way!

Carleton Property Discussion

Mr. Brown asked Ms. Demong to give a recap of the land and this purchase opportunity. The board again stated that their only goal for Town Meeting is to buy this land. The 10.65 acres of the property that comprise the actual "Whiting Fields" will never be developed.

The board would like to create a committee this evening for the purpose of studying CPA uses for the property and report back. Ms. Demong read the draft of the charge to the Carleton Property Committee. The draft is on file in the BOS office. All appointed committee members would serve one year terms. The committee would be populated after an affirmative vote to buy the land at Town Meeting. They would report back to the BOS and CPC with a plan for this landmark property, excluding the Whiting Fields portion.

During any consideration of a proposed land use plan, the Whiting Fields are to remain as open space in perpetuity. Included in the Whiting Fields protection are the vistas, not just the footprint. Ms. Demong stated that many Town committees as well as neighbors and abutters will have input into any potential plans for the rest of the property.

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Any recommendation for Affordable Housing on other parcels of the Carleton property would be detailed in full by the new committee. Ms. Demong read further details of the draft charge to the committee and reiterated that any proposals would go on the Warrant for a future Town Meeting. Again, the most important point is that the Whiting Fields will remain as they are. Mr. Brown asked for comments from the board. Ms. Allen said that the description and charge to the committee was comprehensive. Mr. McBride thought the basic concept was fine and waived his minor changes in the interest of creating the committee this evening. The board noted that this committee creation and charge was a suggestion from Town Counsel. Discussion ensued about wordsmithing the charge to the committee. The board added some edits to the committee creation paragraph. The draft Article will be included as an addendum to these minutes when ready. Mr. McBride made comments about putting some or all of the land in conservation, but based on advice from Town Counsel, no formalization of restrictions will be made yet.

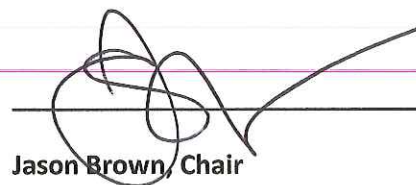
Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to create the Carleton Property Committee with the proposed charge as amended. Unanimously voted.

The board reviewed the proposed amendments to the CPC application budget and wording with some changes.

Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the revisions to the October CPC application for the purchase of the Carleton Property. Unanimously voted

Ms. Demong mentioned that the CPC meeting tomorrow evening will be televised. Mr. Morin and Town Counsel will craft the Article language for review at a future meeting.

Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn at 7:25pm. Unanimously voted



Jason Brown, Chair