

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
5/16/18**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK  
2018 JUN 29 AM 9:00

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**Present:** Jason Brown, Gregg McBride, Ellen Allen, Alison Demong

**Open session; 7:02pm**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Brown.

**Approve minutes**

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Gregg McBride, to approve the minutes of the 3/28/18 Open Meeting. Demong, McBride, Brown voting yes, Allen abstaining due to absence at the meeting.*

**Future Meeting Agendas**

Update on tablet use and People GIS  
Meeting with Chiefs

**Marijuana Laws update from Ellen Allen**

Ms. Allen reported on updates from the MMA meeting re: licensing information for cannabis control information from the Attorney General's and Government Affairs offices. Good news for the Town: because Norwell does not yet have a medical marijuana facility and has banned any recreational marijuana operations via bylaws and a town election, there is no chance that a medical marijuana operating in Norwell could automatically be allowed to add recreational. IN other communities, there are existing medical marijuana companies already operating that may have this automatic ability to add recreational in spite of bylaw/ballot bans.

There is a new company interested in cannabis cultivation for use as medical product at the former Mass Medi Spa location on Cordwainer Drive. The Town would receive some revenue but not a percentage of the sales. They might have an interest in cultivation for recreational use down the road, but the Town would have to change the bylaw to allow this. They need a letter of non-objection or a host agreement signed by the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen. All discussed potential issues with regard to odor control, noting that any smell can be contained with good air handling systems. Questions were asked about the number of licenses the Town can issue; which is tied to the number of liquor licenses allowed.

**Open Session**

Chair Jason Brown called the meeting to order in the Osborn Room at 7:38pm.

Mr. Brown urged all to vote at the annual Town election this Saturday from 8am-6pm.

He reminded all that the meeting is recorded and televised

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Gregg McBride, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimously voted*

**Citizen Comments – None**

**BOS Announcements**

Ms. Allen congratulated Mary Beth Shea and the James Library for being chosen as the Citizen and Business of the Year, respectively, by the Norwell Chamber of Commerce.

**State Senator Patrick O'Connor - Update**

State Sen. O'Connor was present to update the board on this year's state budget, which is better than last year's which had budget cuts. There is a projected increase of 2.6% in the budget with no new taxes except for the marijuana sales tax. Sen. O'Connor highlighted major

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line items of benefit to the Town: \$50K for the tick-borne disease program and \$30K for the emergency generator for the COA. All discussed the latest state and federally supported tick awareness programs. Other programs being debated for fiscal 19 include \$20K for school security upgrades, and \$75K for a regional animal control initiative (a new vehicle) for Hull, Cohasset and Norwell. Sen. O'Connor reported on budget items debated on the floor such as the Lyme disease campaign and charter school reimbursements to the Town. Ms. Allen added thanked Sen. O'Connor because the Senate has provided additional funding of SPED circuit breaker, but that Norwell really needs this to be fully funded this year and next since out-of-district tuitions are a large item in the School budget. She also noted that the net cost for charter schools in Norwell is over \$100K per year, but not as visible since it is on the Cherry Sheet. Sen. O'Connor has proposed a standard approach for coverage for the first and second year tuition. Discussion ensued about state funding for charter schools and the problems that towns are having underwriting tuition for students to attend the charter schools. This is a widespread problem. All discussed proposed funding solutions at length.

Ms. Allen explained the Town's spending strategy for the Chapter 90 money, underscoring that it often needs to be saved up over multiple years in order to cost effectively fund a major road repair. She asked Sen. O'Connor to communicate this fact to MassDOT, which has sometimes viewed unspent Chpt. 90 funds as unnecessary to towns.

Major legislation information was included in Sen. O'Connor's presentation, which is on file in the BOS office. An expanded program for veterans for tax relief is a new option for the Town. Included are updates on criminal justice reform, the opioid crisis, addressing the unfunded pension liability, and his personal proposed legislation. He noted that the unfunded health and pension liabilities are the biggest costs restricting state spending for other programs. Discussion ensued about towns assuming the payoff of the OPEB liability, which would be extremely difficult for Norwell.

Ms. Allen asked about the Governor's Housing Choice legislation. All discussed the prior year's version of a Senate zoning bill, which did not pass. Sen. O'Connor is hoping that this year's Housing Choice version will pass without many changes. He noted the need to increase housing stock in the state, which is losing people and jobs because of the lack of housing and transportation. Air BnB legislation was discussed. The board thanked him for intervening on behalf of the Complete Streets grant, which is helping to fund a portion of the Main Street sidewalk.

Ms. Demong asked about the federal tax law limiting the deductibility of state and local taxes, which could put pressure on towns to lower property taxes. All agreed that this is a big concern for our state. All discussed upcoming ballot questions such including sales tax reduction and family leave.

The board thanked Sen. O'Connor for his support of the Town and its interests.

#### **Applicant for a Hawker and Peddler License**

Verizon FIOS-Zachary Tarallo

Mr. Tarallo was not present to discuss his application. Mr. Brown reminded all that Town residents do not want solicitation on their properties, therefore the board does not grant these licenses.

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Ellen Allen, to deny this license approval request. Unanimously voted*

#### **Best Buddies Challenge Bike Ride Request- June 2, 2018**

All departments have approved this race, subject to the Police Department requirements.

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Ellen Allen, to approve the permit for the Best Buddies Challenge subject to requirements laid out by the Police Dept. Unanimously voted*

Questions were asked and answered about a fee or no fee. As the race goes through only a small portion of Norwell, no fee will be charged.

### COA resignation - Ed Cox

Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Ellen Allen, to accept with regret Mr. Cox's resignation from the Council on Aging. Unanimously voted

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### Use of Tablets

Full discussion of this topic will be postponed until all board members are present. A short discussion ensued about ways to use the tablets for meetings and other Town activities. Mr. Brown reminded all that the open meeting law should be observed when using the tablets. Ms. Allen will contact other towns through the MMA to get ideas for tablet use.

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### Adjournment

Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Ellen Allen, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:38, not returning to Open Session, for the purpose of discussing potential litigation. To do so in Open Session would be detrimental to the Town's negotiating position. Unanimously voted Mr. Brown polled the board; Demong voting yes, McBride voting yes, Allen voting yes, Brown voting yes.

Ellen H. Allen  
~~Jason Brown, Chair~~  
Ellen H. Allen