

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Open Meeting Minutes  
7/11/18**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
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**Open Session – 7:40pm**

Ms. Allen called the meeting to order in the Osborn Room at 7:40 pm. She reminded all that the meeting is recorded and televised.

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

**Citizen Comments – None**

**BOS Announcements - None**

**Town Administrator's Report** – The Town is ready to go live with a Town of Norwell Facebook page. This won't be a chat page, but will send Town news and updates out to the public. A consultant is managing and updating this project. All news items should be submitted through the Town Administrator's office. The idea was well received by the board, so the project is a go. The Reserve Fund saw a lot of transfer activity due to unforeseen expenses for the Main St. Fire Station, snow and ice removal, Fire Department salaries due to collective bargaining, Vocational Tech school expenses, Highway Department and Tree and Grounds. These transfers added up to an amount that is very close to the total reserve fund amount. There is a balance of about \$1200. Most of the transfers are one time expenses.

**Chief Ross - Urpo Nurmenniemi retirement, Special Police Officer App't.**

Chief Ross gave a recap of Detective Nurmenniemi's career, noting that he is retiring on July 15 after 35 years of service to the Town. Chief Ross read a proclamation from the BOS. Ms. Allen read a certificate of appreciation from the board. All congratulated Det. Nurmenniemi and thanked him for his years of distinguished service on the Police force.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Urpo Nurmenniemi as a special police officer effective 7/15/18. Unanimously voted*

**Chief Ross – Road Race Request – Norwell Police Annual 5K Road Race**

Chief Ross summarized the plans for this year's road race, which will take place on October 14th. The benefitting charities this year are ALS ONE and Friendship Home. Chief Ross commented on the improvement in the route.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to approve the application for the Norwell Police 3<sup>rd</sup> annual 5K road race on October 14, 2018, from 7am -11am. Unanimously voted*

**Veterans Agent Update**

David Osborne updated the board on veterans statistics for Norwell, including the total number of veterans (over 527) in the Town, of which a percentage actively uses the services of the VA. Most users are WWII (approx.50) and Korean War vets. Vietnam vets are just starting to request services. Newer vets from the Gulf War tend to access benefits online. Mr. Osborne tries to ID benefits that match the needs of the vets, noting that MA has one of the best benefit programs for vets. Federal and state departments work together to bridge the gap where federal support stops and state support begins. Mr. Osborne works to coordinate these benefit programs, usually reviewing pending cases on a monthly basis.



He summarized his role in educating veterans about their benefits and the paperwork needed to receive benefits, giving examples of cases over the years. He also coordinates referrals to various town agencies.

The Veterans Agent purchases flags for Memorial Day, coordinates the commemorative lowering of the flag and organizes the oldest veterans' luncheon annually. Last year's luncheon hosted 87 vets, which Mr. Osborne hopes to match this year.

Questions were asked and answered by the board. Mr. Osborne spends about 25 hours a week doing this job. The Board reported that Sen. O'Connor's legislation had passed that will increase senior tax relief benefits available to veterans. Ms. Allen asked if increased AH benefits would help vets and Mr. Osborne answered yes, that less expensive housing options for veterans are much needed.

## **Carleton Property Interviews**

### **1. Rich Levitt**

Mr. Levitt introduced himself and gave a summary of his background and reasons for applying. He is currently a member of the CPC. He cited the importance of this land purchase with regard to the master plan for the Town. In answer to questions about the CPC uses, he has no issues with the 3 categories. He supports AH, especially with proximity to Town Center. He believes his background in program planning and strategic planning make his skill set a good fit for this committee.

### **2. Becky Freed**

Ms. Freed is a long time resident of the Town who has served on many boards including being a Selectman and CPC Chair. She stated that she is thrilled that this purchase is going forward, and reminisced about her term as part of the BOS board that purchased the Donovan property. She would like to have several walkthroughs on the land before beginning any planning activities. Ms. Freed invited residents to join in the walkthroughs. She noted that she could envision all 3 CPA categories represented in a "laundry list" of plans for this land, including both passive and active recreation. Mr. Brown asked about the option to put a conservation restriction on the whole parcel. Ms. Freed would like to have the committee and residents research the entire spectrum of options before deciding to put the whole property into conservation. Ms. Freed's participation on committees overseeing different land acquisitions makes her skill set a good fit for this committee.

### **3. Brian Greenberg**

Mr. Greenberg gave a short summary of his background and length of time as a Norwell resident. He and his family have lived in the Town for 6 years. Mr. Green has been serving on the Capital Budget Committee as well as the Bylaw Review Committee for the past few years. He has completed a historic restoration and builds repro furniture as a hobby. He didn't vote for the Town meeting amendment because it precluded any active recreation options for the land and it would have been a hasty decision to limit the uses in perpetuity. Mr. Greenberg agrees with AH options and would like to see veterans' benefits for housing opportunities. He would be open to any proposal, but higher density AH might be counterintuitive for this land. As a licensed contractor, Mr. Greenberg thinks that this special property warrants an in-depth review. He also voiced concerns about the amount of property owned by the Town with regard to ongoing maintenance. Questions were asked and answered about types of AH. Mr. Greenberg's areas of expertise include his main job in finance for a money manager, analyzing budgets building models and software, advanced statistics. He is now going full time into construction, which requires him to be both practical and analytical. Although he has



also applied for the Advisory Board, he would prefer to be appointed to this committee over the AB.

**4. John Selby**

Mr. Selby has been a resident since 1979. He gave a summary of his background and reasons for applying. His committee work includes the School Committee, the Advisory Board and the Pathways Committee. He would like to preserve and protect the character of the Town. In response to Ms. Allen's questions about specific CPA uses, he has no preconceived opinions. As a banker for 40 years, he is good at listening and building rapport in order to get the job done. When asked about the Town's purchase of the Donovan property, Mr. Selby, an abutter, stated that he had some reservations initially, but it was resolved well with a win/win for the Town. As a believer in discussion and compromise, he would like to hear all project options for this land.

**5. Katelyn White**

Ms. White and her family have recently relocated to the Town. She is an abutter living on Lincoln Street and would like to be a voice for her neighborhood. She doesn't have a strong opinion about potential projects, but would like to hear the options before making any decisions. Her interest lies in the area of parks and recreation, but other choices would be acceptable. She would be open to serving on other committees, but this one would be her first choice.

**6. David Case**

Mr. Case is a longtime resident on River Street, and this is his first time volunteering for any committee. His background includes running Plimoth Plantation for many years. He gave his opinion on the land and reasons for applying for this committee. Mr. Case's strengths include being a good listener in order to formulate a consensus. He has experience with many types of conservation in terms of protecting and educating to protect our heritage. Mr. Case gave highlights of his background that related to the goals of this committee.

**FY 2019 Committee Reappointments**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to reappoint committee members to the Community Preservation Committee as follows; Joan Osborne, for a term ending 6/30/21, Rich Levitt, for a term ending 6/30/21, and Julie Gillis for a term ending 6/30/21. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to reappoint committee members to the Conservation Commission as follows; Bob McMackin, for a term ending 6/30/21, Stacie Minihane, for a term ending 6/30/21, and Ron Mott for a term ending 6/30/21. Unanimously voted*

**Town Administrator Review**

Included are additional documents in the packet for the board's review, prepared by Mr. Morin. Ms. Allen asked the board to review these documents and be ready to give feedback at a subsequent meeting. All thanked Mr. Morin for preparing these additional documents.

Ms. Allen requested that the final Town Administrator comments and review be rescheduled to the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Council on Aging Resignations – Wes Osborne and Lynn Rose**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to regretfully accept the resignations of Wes Osborne and Lynn Rose from the Council on Aging. Unanimously voted.*

All thanked these two longtime volunteers for their years of service.

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**Commission on Disabilities Applicant – Janet Johnson**

*Motion to appoint Janet Johnson to the Commission on Disabilities for a term ending 6/30/21.*

*Unanimously voted.*

**Future meetings**

**July 25<sup>th</sup>**

Carleton property discussion and appointments

Street light proposal – Real Term Energy

**Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn at 9:16pm.*

*Unanimously vote*



**Ellen Allen, Chair**

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