

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting Minutes
5/15/19**

TOWN OF NORWELL
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Open Session, cont'd.

Ms. Allen updated all on the status of the Grange Hall. She put America Legion member Peter Kulka in touch with Denise Laiosa. He has also talked to someone from the Historical Commission. The Legion contacted other organizations that might be interested in sharing the building such as the Boy Scouts and the Rotary Club. Mr. Kulka stated that the Legion wouldn't pursue a liquor license if the Boy Scouts wish to share the building. He is going to visit the Grange for a walk-through. Members of various labor unions have offered to do pro bono work on the building as in-kind contributions. All discussed the Legion's timeline and search for a permanent home between their "campaign" to obtain the 40 River Street site in 2016 and this Grange building offer. The local Grange members are willing to wait for the Legion to make a decision and the board is hopeful that this option will be accepted by them before too much time passes. The Legion would buy the building from the local Grange; the BOS would waive their option to purchase the building. As long as the Legion agrees to the preservation restriction (PRA) and does the renovation in compliance the board is fine with the sale. Ms. Laiosa has a ready-made rehab plan that they can use.

The board discussed feedback from April Anderson about the status of the Massworks grant, in which the funding requests of both Hanover and Norwell are bundled. There is a lot of encouragement from the State House. PREP is planning to do the engineering for the South Street bridge. Mr. Ferguson will call Ms. Anderson to discuss the necessity of this engineering plan. The grant application period starts on 7/29 for two weeks.

Mr. Morin hasn't heard anything about the St. Helen's property status since Town Meeting. If the Diocese does want to sell the property the Town could probably get something together for Fall Town Meeting, but nothing has been heard from any source. The location of a new parish has not yet been decided, but the church is apparently close to a deal in Hanover. Ms. Allen wants to stay on top of this issue. Mr. Rull added that the church's realtor stated that the Diocese prefers to do long term leases instead of selling the property outright.

Open Session, Osborn Room, 7:30pm

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:36pm. She reminded all that the meeting is televised and recorded. All rose to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of amended agenda, unanimously voted

The discussion about the Town Center will be postponed until next week's meeting at 7:30pm. *Motion; made by Gregg McBride, seconded by Alison Demong, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimously voted*

Citizen Comments – None

Selectmen Announcements

Tonight is Gregg McBride's last meeting. He has served for 9 years as a Selectman. Ms. Allen gave a summary of his considerable involvement with a wide range of Town boards during his years of service to the Town, which included the Community Preservation Committee, the Community Housing Trust, the Cable Committee and the Conservation Commission. He was instrumental in the negotiations of the purchase of the Loring dairy farm by John Hornstra and also the Town's purchase of the Donovan Farm. He will be very much missed on the BOS. The good news is that Mr. McBride will continue to serve on several of his current committees as an At Large member. Ms. Allen added that the whole Stetson cemetery project was Mr. McBride's idea. Any Conservation or hazardous waste issues were handled competently by Mr. McBride, as well as projects like Green Communities, legalization of marijuana, Cleargov transparency and many others. She asked Mr. McBride to please continue his involvement with projects like the Pine Street landfill cleanup. Mr. McBride thanked the board and said that he would miss everyone!

Dan Senteno – ZBA Applicant

Mr. Senteno gave a short summary of his background and reasons for applying to serve on this committee. He has been a resident for 3 years and would like to get involved.

In response to questions from the board, Mr. Senteno stated that he worked on committees in college and was active in community outreach programs. The BOS noted that there is quite a learning curve to sit on the ZBA, but it will be informative. As there are several ZBA Associate members, Mr. Senteno would not be required to attend every meeting.

Steve Marsh and Steve Regan were also at the meeting. Questions were asked and answered about their reasons for attending (Note: Mr. Senteno lives on High Street in the proposed Assisted Living overlay district). They wanted to welcome Mr. Senteno to the committee and offer their support.

Motion; made by Gregg McBride, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Dan Senteno as an Associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring 6/30/22. Unanimously voted

Appointment of Alternate Gas and Plumbing Inspector

Motion; made by Gregg McBride, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Scott Wilson as an Alternate Gas and Plumbing Inspector for a term expiring 6/30/20. Unanimously voted

BOS letter of support – Complete Streets grant application for sidewalk project

Ms. Demong gave the board background information for this letter of support, based on the incident last year when the Town's State Rep. told the State House that that Norwell was not interested in this grant. A copy of the letter will be sent to both State Senator O'Connor (who supported this grant last year) and Rep. DeCoste. Ms. Demong noted that the Warrant Article to help fund this project with \$250K was approved at Town Meeting. Ms. Allen read the letter aloud, adding that it will be signed by all of the board members.

Motion; made by Gregg McBride, seconded by Alison Demong, to send this letter to Rep. DeCoste and Sen. O'Connor supporting the Complete Streets grant application for \$400K for the sidewalk project. Unanimously voted

Future Meetings

Mr. Morin will be out of town and won't attend next week's meeting. The board will have a new member and will reorganize.

No BOS meeting on May 29th. The board will meet the following week on June 5th. They will meet every other week for months of July and August.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Gregg McBride, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn at 7:58pm.

Unanimously voted



Ellen Allen, Chair

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