

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting Minutes
6/12/19**

NO. 22 TOWN OF NORWELL
2019 JUL 25 AM 11:21
RECEIVED

Present: Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Jason Brown, Joe Rull, Peter Morin
Selectman Bruce Graham was not present.

The Order of Taking for Henry's Lane and Forest Ridge will be read into the record by Clerk Joe Rull. The board signed the orders, which will be sent to Town Counsel.

Osborne Fields Update

Mr. Morin updated the board on resident Don Mauch's objections to the CPC project to rehab these fields. George Grey and Mr. Morin focused on his list of concerns and wants; how to address lighting and the permanence of structures on the site (Stands, dugouts, outfield fence, lighting, advertising, signage). Mr. Morin drafted a Memorandum Of Agreement for the board to review.

The board discussed the pros and cons of any MOA with an abutter to Town property, noting that it might set a bad precedent. The current sign bylaw was discussed with regard to the existing advertising signage (which is not permanent) at the Woodworth ball fields and the proposed advertising signage at the Osborne field for the Little League teams. Mr. Morin would like the board and the Town to decide on the signage, not the abutter. All discussed edits to the MOA. The existing Woodworth signage does not comply with the current bylaw, which needs to be addressed and ultimately approved by both the ZBA and Historic New England. The Norwell Little League has been using the advertising revenue from these signs to help maintain the Woodworth fields for years. Permanently giving away the ability to earn revenue for these fields is concerning, per Ms. Allen. All noted that there is some advertising signage at the Clipper Community Complex. Mr. Brown would like to formalize the signage rule at the Woodworth fields to be consistent and bring them into compliance with the current bylaw. Discussion continued about Mr. Mauch's demands, with the board noting that he knew the constraints of the fields when he purchased the abutting property in 1999. It is unreasonable to expect the rules to change. All talked about the location of the proposed signage, with Mr. Morin adding that it is not a concession to ask that the Town comply with its bylaws. The only item to address is the scoreboard for the Osborne field. Mr. Brown suggested that the board quote the current sign bylaw in the MOA. The Town could then amend the bylaw to have sign compliance everywhere. Ms. Demong would like the agreement not to address signage, noting that decisions such as these should be made by the Town. She respects the fact that Mr. Morin has negotiated this far with Mr. Mauch. Mr. Morin will revise the draft to state that the field will comply with sign bylaws, apply for special permits, no lighting to be installed at this time, typical ball field structure and no limit on the field hours. Any MOA on this subject will apply only to this property owner, not future owners of this property.

All discussed their concerns about fields signage, noting Little League's use of advertising revenue for field maintenance. The signage needs to be brought into compliance, but the current Woodworth signs could be dealt with by issuing a special permit, which would set the tone for all to follow while the sign bylaw is retooled.

The Assistant Town Assessor submitted her retirement notice today.

Gov. Baker and Sen. O'Connor will be at the Hornstra Dairy farm on Friday at 4pm, and the BOS is invited.

Open Session at 7:30pm

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:35pm. She reminded all that the meeting is televised and recorded. All rose to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Comments – None

Selectmen Announcements

Mr. Rull has to leave early.

Mr. Rull read into the record a letter from Norwell student Molly Castle, who thanked Veterans Agent David Osborne for the outstanding Memorial Day activities he organized for the Town. Ms. Castle assisted Mr. Osborne with the planning of the events and thoroughly enjoyed the day's activities, along with many of her fellow students and Town residents. A copy of her letter is available for review in the BOS office.

Mr. Rull addressed a complaint about his behavior during the Parkview Inn discussion at last week's BOS meeting, adding that he wants to see the Town well served and has had extensive political experience. He also stated that he believes abutters have rights and he will always go to bat for the abutter.

Mr. Brown congratulated the High School graduating class of 2019, and commented on the impressive speeches and the exceptional quality of the graduates!

Historical Commission Application –Alan Prouty

Resident Alan Prouty gave a summary of his background and reasons for applying. He is a Norwell native and would like to serve on a committee, as he has time since his retirement. He addressed the Stetson house potential move, noting that he has good experience with this type of project as he moved his own house to a new location on School Street. His job skills in project management and procurement experience would be a good fit for this committee. The Jacobs farmhouse project could use these skills.

The board thanked him for coming in and will be in touch after they interview the other NHC applicant next week.

Council on Aging Applicant – Amy Hudspeth Cabell

Ms. Cabell, who practices elder law and estate planning, gave a summary of her background and reasons for applying. She has a background in healthcare law. She was very impressed with the COA when her parents were members and thought the world of their valuable services. Volunteering to serve on the board would be a nice way to give back to the Town.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Amy Cabell to the COA for a term expiring 6/30/22. Unanimously voted

Community Housing Trust Appointments

Ms. Allen gave a short summary of the reasons for these appointments and changes to the board composition. The Trust is planning to reorganize and Mr. McBride will be part of these plans. Mr. Charest, who is a valued member of the Trust, has agreed to be an Alternate member, which will allow the Trust to continue to benefit from his considerable experience in the Affordable Housing construction finance industry. Mr. Rull expressed concern that Mr. Charest was being set aside, but the board noted that his job requires extensive weekly travel as well as caring for his young family and he is not able to attend many Trust meetings. CHT Chair Peter Shea has stated that Mr. Charest will continue to be an important member of this board.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Rob Charest as an Alternate member to the Community Housing Trust for a term expiring 6/30/2020 and Gregg McBride as an At Large member of the Community Housing Trust for a term expiring 6/30/2020; 3 voting yes, 1 voting no (Mr. Rull). Motion Carried

2019 Committee Reappointments

The Board reviewed the lengthy list of committee reappointments, as well as volunteers not re-upping for another term. All commented on the fact that the majority of the Town's committees have few or no vacancies, and thanked all of the volunteer board and committee members for donating their time and expertise to the Town. At the request of Jason Brown, the Board held until a future meeting the request for the reappointments of Michael Tobin and Steve Marsh to the Economic Development Committee (EDC). The Board first needs to discuss the future role of the EDC.

Motions; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Jason Brown, to reappoint all the other committee members requesting reappointment as indicated for their specific term on the attached Committee member list. Unanimously voted (the list of appointees is attached). Ms. Allen thanked all who volunteered for a new term of office.

Athletic Fields Committee Mission Statement – 2012 Draft Revision Discussion-postponed

Order of Taking – Henry's Lane

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to execute the Order of Taking on Henry's Lane. Unanimously voted

Order of Taking – Forest Ridge

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to execute the Order of Taking on Forest Ridge. Unanimously voted

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn at 8:04pm. Unanimously voted


Ellen Allen, Chair