

Office of Planning Board &
Town Planner

TOWN OF NORWELL
Norwell Town Offices, Room 112
345 Main Street
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
(781) 659-8021

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK
2022 OCT 27 AM 11:05
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Norwell Planning Board Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022
10AM

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. with Vice Chair Donald Mauch presiding and Board Members, Brendan Sullivan (in-person), and Brian Greenberg (via Zoom) present. Also present was Director of Planning and Community Development Ilana Quirk. This is a joint Public Hearing with the Deputy Norwell Tree Warden Shane Gokey and Highway Official Mark Smith. Also present were Christine Joseph, David Osborne, Anne and Bill Blevin. The meeting was held in the Osborne Room, Town Hall.

CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA

Motion: Moved by Member (Sullivan) to open the meeting. Seconded by Member (Mauch) and a roll call vote was held: unanimously voted. 3.0.0

Motion: Moved by Member (Mauch) to approve the agenda as submitted/amended. Seconded by Member (Sullivan) and a roll call vote was held: unanimously voted. 3.0.0

Member Sullivan read the Public Hearing Notice that was published in the Patriot Ledger on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, and Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

Ms. Quirk read the Section 5 of the Public Shade Tree Act (G.L.c .87, §5) and the Scenic Road Bylaw and explained the standard of review.

Deputy Tree Warden Shane Gokey explained there are 18 trees to be removed and some, but not all, are a potential hazard and threat to the residents. Several of the trees are 70+ feet tall and are mostly pine trees. Deputy Tree Warden Gokey said the proposed Stetson Woods VROD Subdivision has nothing to do with the proposed tree removal. Some of the trees have grown into the stone wall and Deputy Tree Warden Gokey explained after the trees are cut the stumps will be ground down with little to no change in the stonewall.

Planning Board Member Sullivan stated that, due to numerous recent power outages in the area due to falling trees, removing the trees is proactive step to avoid injury and property damage and power outages.

Highway Official Smith noted that snow plowing in this area of Stetson Road is very difficult due to the trees that are located so close to road. The plows and cars often hit and damage these trees.

Removal of these trees will be very helpful when plowing occurs to keep Stetson Road clear during storms.

CITIZEN COMMENTARY

Mr. Blevin, 177 Stetson Road, asked how removing the tree in front of his property would affect his mailbox. Deputy Tree Warden Gokey responded that mailboxes should not be affixed to trees and should not be in the right of way and he would be happy to relocate and reinstall the mailbox. Mr. Blevin also inquired about a dead tree across the street from his driveway and Deputy Tree Warden Gokey stated he would look at that.

Christine Joseph, 169 Stetson Road, asked about particular trees bordering her property and the Deputy Tree Warden responded.

Motion by Member Mauch to close the public hearing. Seconded by Member Sullivan and a roll call vote was held: unanimously voted.

Motion by Member Mauch to have the Planning Board assent to the removal of all the trees specified by the Tree Warden in the legal notice and to do any necessary repair or replace of the stone wall in the right of way within six months of the assent. Seconded by Member Sullivan and a roll call vote was held: unanimously voted.


NEXT MEETING

October 12, 2022 – Town Hall, Gym Room 2, 7pm

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by Member Mauch to adjourn at 10:25 AM. Seconded by Member Sullivan and a roll call vote was held: unanimously voted.

I certify that the above minutes were reviewed and approved by a majority vote of the Planning Board on 10.26.22.



Brian Greenberg, Chair
George W. Warden, Clerk

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