

**Norwell Select Board
5-19-21
Open Session – Remote meeting**

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:00pm. She announced that all votes will be roll call votes as the meeting participants are using remote access software. The meeting is being recorded and the audio file will be available on the Town website. Ms. Allen noted that this meeting will be conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq.

Ms. Allen welcomed the two newly elected board members; Andy Reardon and Pete Smellie.

Approval of Agenda

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the agenda as written.
Unanimously voted by roll call vote*

BOS Reports and Announcements

Ms. Allen reported that the new library project is moving along. Open houses are scheduled for 6/11 and 6/12, with a limited opening on 6/14. Detailed information is available on the Town website.

The Norwell Food Pantry has reopened at Town Hall on Thursday afternoons. Social distancing guidelines must be followed. Food drop offs are now accepted weekdays except Thursdays. Please don't donate any open or expired food.

COA Director Susan Curtin emailed the board to thank the CERT team for their exceptional work during the pandemic. They always "go the extra mile" to help the Town's seniors. Kudos to Art Joseph and his team.

Town Administrator

Mr. Morin reported on the status of the following items:

1. The 3rd CARES Act payment of \$158K was received this week. The Town continues to receive funds for its requested reimbursements, with an outstanding balance of about \$1M still to come. Mr. Morin has been assured that the funds will be delivered to the Town by FYE on 6/30/21.
2. Governor Baker's forthcoming announcements: 5/29- working in accordance with the statute, the mask requirement will be lifted. It will be optional for Town employees, and Mr. Morin is working with Mr. Margro to comply in a non-threatening way. As of 5/29, visitors to Town Hall who have been vaccinated will not be required to wear a mask when entering the building.
6/15/21: The emergency order allowing remote meetings will probably be rescinded and the ability to have remote meetings will probably be eliminated. There are 2 pending bills to allow remote participation to continue, but they have not passed yet. Mr. Morin will coordinate with Harbor Media to confirm their readiness to broadcast meetings from the Osborn Room. He does not foresee any issues that would delay the return to in-person meetings.
3. Mr. Morin and Mr. Osborne have been considering the feasibility of a Memorial Day parade, more information will be forthcoming. Mr. Osborne has assisted residents with the flag decoration along Main Street to commemorate the holiday.
4. Pour coffee shop is opening a second location on Washington Street. There will be a public hearing at the 6/2/21 BOS meeting for a CV license approval for the new location. There is no history of any violations for this local business. Based on the positive inspections and excellent operation history, Mr. Morin requested that the board allow

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Pour II to operate under their current CV license until the hearing. This won't create a health or safety risk and is supportive of good business in Norwell. He added that each Town CV license is attached to the business location. He doesn't anticipate any difficulties. A public hearing is required, so Pour II has to go through the whole process. The abutters list shouldn't be an issue as the location is surrounded by other commercial entities. He asked for a sense of the board to allow this opening; all were in agreement to go ahead.

Mr. Morin will keep everyone updated about the format and location of the next BOS meeting on 6/2/21.

Citizen Comments-None

Reorganization of the Board

Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to nominate Bruce Graham for Select Board Chair. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

There being no other nominations for Chair, the nominations were closed.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to elect Bruce Graham as Chair. Unanimously voted by roll vote.

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Pete Smellie, to elect Jason Brown as Vice Chair. Unanimously voted by roll vote.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to elect Pete Smellie as Clerk. Unanimously voted by roll vote.

Committee Rep Assignments

- Plymouth County Advisory Board - Pete Smellie
- OPEB Trust - Bruce Graham
- Community Housing Trust - Andy Reardon
- Advisory Board Nominating Committee - Pete Smellie
- Cable Committee - Ellen Allen
- Complete Streets - Jason Brown
- Traffic Study Committee - Jason Brown
- MAPC Rep - Bruce Graham
- MBTA Rep - Andy Reardon

Medical Marijuana Host Agreement

Mr. Morin requested authorization from the board to go into discussions with Elevated Access to write this agreement, which will allow them to grow and wholesale medical and recreational marijuana at their facility in the Town.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to allow the Town Administrator to enter into negotiations with Elevated Access for a host agreement. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Road Race Approval - MS Cape Cod Getaway; July 10, 2021

Mr. Morin noted that this is a typical road race, but one which will only travel through a small portion of the Town. The event fees are waived because of the negligible impact. All of the departments have signed off on this race - the first in quite a while because of the COVID restrictions.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the MS Cape Cod Getaway road race on 7/10/21, to be held with the departmental requirements as detailed on the application form. Any amendments to the approved permit will require additional approval from Police Chief Lee, DC Bruszek and Fire Chief Kean. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

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Jacobs Farm Easement Approval

This easement is required for approval to switch out the current light fixtures for better lighting in the West Barn, to be used by Cross Street Flower Farm. The fixtures are removable and can be taken down to allow the current fixtures to be reinstalled. The NHC unanimously approved this installation with required customization by electrician John Lunn.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the easement for the new light fixtures in the West Barn to be used by Cross Street Flower Farm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

The application will be forwarded to Historic New England.

Transfer Custody: Tanczos and Carleton property to Conservation

The Tanczos property has been delinquent in taxes for many years. The owner offered the property to Con Com in 2014 in exchange for forgiveness of the taxes owed. Con Com voted to accept the land, which should have been processed at that point in time. It was discovered when updating the Open Space Plan that the BOS never voted to accept the gift. The delinquent tax bill will be paid out of the Con Com fund, which is composed not of taxpayer dollars, but rather developer fees paid to the Town. Per Con Com Chair Marynel Wahl, the piece of land is very wet, but is pretty and connects to the trail system. Con Com has already voted to pay the amount due of \$11K. Questions were asked and answered about the land and the fund.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to accept the Tanczos property as a gift to the Town. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

The Carleton property referred to is the 115 acres portion of the land to be set aside for conservation as described in the 2020 Town Meeting Warrant. The transfer will be recorded on the deed.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the transfer of 115 acres of the Carleton property as voted at the 2020 Town Meeting into conservation land.

Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Trattoria San Pietro

Mr. Morin reported that this motion is only needed to approve the tent removal "modification" of the outdoor dining area for this restaurant. Anna from Trattoria gave an overview of the future plans to update the patio space. The Board of Health has signed off and Mr. Morin does not anticipate any issues with approval from the Building Department. Mr. Brown added that the past year's COVID restrictions have been incredibly stressful for all businesses, especially restaurants. Anna expressed her appreciation of the board's support to help her restaurant.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the modified patio seating plan as presented this evening. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Recreation Commission Applicant

Andi Warren would like to volunteer to serve again on the Recreation Commission after a few years off. She has good ideas and is eager to work with the group. There will be a vacancy for Ms. Warren to be appointed on 7/1/21.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to appoint Andrea Warren to the Recreation Commission for a term beginning 7/1/21, expiring 6/30/24. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Town Hall Renovation: Project Committee

Mr. Morin updated the board on the contract being considered for an Owner Project Manager (OPM) for the Town Hall Renovation project. He will bring the draft contract to the board for approval in the next few weeks. He would like to have the board form a committee to review and deal with the renovation process. The committee should be small; 1 BOS member, Mr. Morin,

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the Facilities Manager, a department head to be named and an SEIU member of the Town Hall office staff. This should be a formal committee that reviews project activity and gives pending approval. All discussed possible committee members. Mr. Reardon volunteered to serve on the committee, as he has experience with construction of the Fire Department building on Washington Street.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to create a Town Hall Renovation Project Committee with the following member positions; Town Administrator Peter Morin, BOS member Andy Reardon, a Town Hall department head, an SEIU Town Hall employee, Town Hall Facilities Manager Ted Nichols. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

A second motion to approve the remaining specific committee members will be made at a future BOS meeting.

Community Garden Gift fund

Mr. Morin gave an overview of this proposed project for the small field on Circuit Street across from the Donovan fields. The project will be managed by Con Com. The purpose of the motion is to create a fund for this project as described below in the email from Peg Norris, Chair, Beautification Committee:

To: Norwell Select Board

From: Peg Norris, Beautification Committee Chair

Date: May 14, 2021

Re: Norwell Community Gardens Gift Fund

The Norwell Community Gardens seeks to establish a gift fund as a depository for Norwell citizens to contribute to the development of a field at the intersection of Circuit, Pleasant and Forest Streets as a living memorial to Nancy Hemingway. The meadow of wildflowers, the demonstration vegetable garden, and a breast cancer memorial garden will give tangible evidence to Norwell's commitment to our Town's natural beauty and healthy environment.

Contributions will be made to the Friends of the Norwell Community Gardens.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the establishment of a gift fund for the Friends of the Norwell Community Gardens, for the development of this field as described above at the intersection of Circuit, Pleasant and Forest Streets. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the Open Meeting minutes for 5/5/21. Mr. Brown, Ms. Allen and Mr. Graham voting yes, Mr. Reardon and Mr. Smellie abstaining as they were not board members for the 5/5/21 BOS meeting. Motion carried.

Future Meetings; 6/2, 6/14

The board discussed topics for future meetings which will be included on the Future Meeting Agendas schedule.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to adjourn at 8:18pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Bruce Graham, Chair