

**Town of Norwell  
Select Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
1/4/23**

Mr. Graham called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

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

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the meeting minutes for the Executive Sessions on 12/7/22 and 12/21/22. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the meeting minutes for the Open Sessions on 12/7/22 and 12/21/22. Unanimously voted*

**Select Board Reports**

Ms. Allen reported that the library received a design award from the Society of Architects.

Mr. Reardon offered condolences to the family of Bob Clyde, who passed away recently.

**Town Administrator's Report – None**

**Citizen Comments - None**

**Vote to join PFAS class action suit**

Ms. Sullivan updated the board on this lawsuit. There are 31 communities in MA that have joined. This is very similar to the opioid settlement. The towns are seeking to recover damages (costs incurred) resulting from these chemicals in the water and to remedy the water content. Questions were asked and answered about joining this nationwide suit. Per Ms. Sullivan, there is no reason not to join this suit as the Town must be a party to receive any funds. The attorneys get 25% and the remainder is split.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, that the board approve joining the PFAS class action lawsuit. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, that the board authorize the Town Administrator to act on behalf of the board and sign the legal agreement for the PFAS class action lawsuit. Unanimously voted*

**Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Applicant – Heather Hanley**

Heather Hanley was present to give a summary of her background and reasons for applying to be an Associate board member. The SB noted that this is a quasi- judiciary board with a steep learning curve. This is tough subject matter, and they are not always the most popular decision makers in the Town.

In response to the board's questions about her interest in this board, Ms Hanley related her experience dealing with her own house construction. She understands the

challenge and highlighted her interest in the 40B development process and understanding of the legal requirements.

Ms. Hanley added that she has an objective point of view and would try to be a neutral party.

The board and Ms. Hanley further discussed the role of a ZBA member compared to other boards and committees in the Town. Technical expertise would be beneficial for a ZBA appointment, but this is a training position as an associate which does not require the same depth of knowledge. The board encouraged Ms. Hanley to watch or attend a few ZBA hearings as she has not yet done that, then make her decision whether or not to move forward with her application.

Given Ms. Hanley's interest in 40B housing development, the board invited her to join the Community Housing Trust, which has several openings.

On another topic, Ms. Hanley would like the board to post monthly PFAS water level updates on the website. The board suggested that she talk to the Water Commissioners or Water Department Superintendent Jason Federico for more information. The Water Department is holding Q and A sessions for residents about this topic. The board will invite the Water Commissioners to a meeting in the next few weeks for an update.

#### **Future Meetings/Agendas**

Topics will include snow removal on private roads and related topics. The board briefly discussed this topic, voicing opinions which were not unanimous.

Social media was discussed, with options for a Facebook page that would be output only. Policy is important. Ms. Sullivan will reach out to other towns for examples.

The next meeting will be January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

#### **Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to adjourn at 7:46pm.*

*Unanimously voted*



**Bruce W. Graham, Chair**