

**Town of Norwell
Select Board
Open Meeting
8/9/23**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Andy Reardon, to approve the Executive Session minutes of 7/12/23 and the Open Meeting minutes of 7/26/23. Unanimously voted

Select Board Reports

Mr. Reardon reported that the new highway barn construction is making good progress.

Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Sullivan informed everyone about the damage to the River Street bridge over Third Herring Brook at the Norwell/Hanover town line. A scope of work estimate will be forthcoming. The bridge is safe to travel now. This construction project would qualify for a small bridge loan from the state.

Citizen Comments – Ken Peterson, 37 Otis Hill Road. Re: 2/24/21 Select Board meeting minutes

Mr. Peterson personally drove the 25mph areas mentioned in the above referenced Select Board meeting minutes and made observations about the current signage. He opined that there is not enough signage. Per TSC Chair Jason Brown, there are no current updates, although there have been some additions to the noted areas. He will add this to the next TSC meeting agenda. The board had a short discussion about the amount of signage that is acceptable to neighborhoods.

Brian Carroll was present to discuss the Wildcat lawsuit, giving the board an update on the legal status of the suit. He opined that a majority of the Select Board would now vote to put this land in conservation.

Although the appeal is scheduled for a September 11th hearing, he urged the board to go ahead with a vote, citing the legal costs to taxpayers. He made a settlement proposal to Town Counsel to drop the suit if the board votes to put the land in conservation.

Mr. Graham replied to Mr. Carroll's comments per his right as a board member who is not the Chair, noting that there are alternatives to Mr. Carroll's offer. To throw away saleable land worth a minimum of \$650K by putting the land in conservation does not serve the taxpayers well. He opined that a proposal to put half the land in question in conservation and sell the rest would have the support of a majority of Town residents.

Community Preservation Committee– application for At Large seat

Marynel Wahl applied to serve on this committee. In response to Mr. Reardon's question, other board members thought that another Con Com member on this committee wouldn't create a "weighted average" for Con Com on the CPC. Mr. Graham added his hope that she will have an interest in developing a framework for future

planning of the whole CPA framework, including yearly spending and consideration of additional non-CPA ongoing expenses.

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Andy Reardon , to appoint Marynel Wahl to the Community Preservation Committee as an At Large member for a term expiring 6/30/26. Unanimously voted

Cultural Council Applicant – Kate Ewen

Ms. Ewen gave a summary of her background and reasons for applying.

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Andy Reardon , to appoint Kate Ewen to the Cultural Council as an At Large member for a term expiring 6/30/25. Unanimously voted

Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

Fire Chief Kean was present to give a recap of this state agreement, to which almost all towns in the commonwealth belong. There are two “arms”; one for Fire and one for the DPW. Norwell Fire has the same rights under the law if working in another town. This agreement codifies the right to mutual aid. The town currently receives mutual aid, but this formalizes the agreement. Per Chief Kean, this was only an administrative oversight. There are now only 7 towns in the Commonwealth that are Not part of this agreement.

Questions were asked and answered about the terms of this agreement and any risks apparent with opting in. Per Chief Kean, this would be important for large scale events like hurricanes, tornadoes, brush fires, etc.; there is no downside to opting in. All requests for aid are handled through SSRECC (emergency management).

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Andy Reardon, to authorize the Select board Chair to sign the mutual aid opt in form. Unanimously voted

Multigeneration facility feasibility study discussion, cont'd.

Mr. Smellie updated all on the discussion about spending the Article funding to include a wider scope of options for feasibility to include a COA only building and a Rec/COA building.

Ms. Sullivan commented on options for wording of the contractor role in the contract that will be generated to do this work.

The Multigeneration Facility Project Committee will have the following members: 1 Select Board member, 1 Recreation Commission member, 1 Council on Aging member, the Facilities Manager, COA Director Susan Curtin, Recreation Director George Grey, and 1 At Large member TBD.

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Jason Brown, to form the Multigeneration Facility Feasibility Committee. Unanimously voted

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Jason Brown, to nominate Brian Greenberg as the Select Board representative to this committee. Unanimously voted

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Jason Brown, to appoint the members of this committee as follows: COA member Alison Heughan, Rec Commission member Dustin Reardon, COA Director Susan Curtin, Recreation Director George Grey and Facilities Manager Ted Nichols. Andy Reardon abstained (family member is being appointed), Brown, Graham, Greenberg and Smellie voting yes.

Future Meetings: August 23rd, September 6th, September 20th

Adjournment

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Brian Greenberg, to adjourn at 7:53pm.

Unanimously voted

Peter W. Smellie, Chair