

**Town of Norwell
Select Board
Open Meeting
11/1/23**

Present: Jason Brown, Brian Greenberg, Andy Reardon, Peter Smellie, Darleen Sullivan, Kim Roy

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. All rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Brian Greenberg, to approve the 10/18/23 open meeting minutes. Unanimously voted

Select Board reports

Mr. Smellie announced the list of committee vacancies and invited residents to volunteer. Please contact the Town Administrator's office for more information and a committee application.

Town Administrator - None

Citizens Comments – None

Stretch Energy Code Discussion

Building Commissioner Tom Barry was present to participate and comment.

Mr. Greenberg gave a summary of this building code and its problems. All but about 50 towns in MA first accepted the code as written and then updated in 2015. Adoption of the stretch energy code makes towns eligible as a Green Community members to receive state grants.

The alternative is the base energy code, which was updated in 2021. The Town could switch back to this code, whose requirements are not nearly as restrictive as the stretch code. Mr. Greenberg's fact sheet is attached to these minutes for more information.

Mr. Barry and Mr. Greenberg expanded on the two codes and gave examples of current building projects where compliance with the stretch technology made the cost prohibitively expensive.

One option would be to leave the Green Community program and let the consumer decide which code to use. Projects would still be eligible for MassSave rebates.

Mr. Greenberg proposed a Warrant Article to rescind the Green Community membership. A yes vote at Town Meeting would put this question on the ballot at the Town election.

Ms. Sullivan reported on the grant amounts and savings received since 2018. Per Mr. Greenberg, Norwell residents' spending on building projects to comply with the stretch code has far exceeded the grant amounts.

This topic will be on an upcoming meeting agenda for a vote when the Warrant is opened. Mr. Greenberg invited residents to comment.

Appointment of Labor Counsel - Clifford and Kenney

The team from Clifford and Kenney introduced themselves to the board:

Jamie Kenney - Partner

Rich Messina – Associate

Dan Williams - Associate

Atty. Kenney introduced everyone and gave a short history of the firm, which specializes in labor issues, contracts, etc. They have been in business for 11 years.

Attys. Messina and Williams introduced themselves and expanded on their specialties.

The firm represents most of the neighboring towns in Plymouth County and the south shore, so they know the area well. Their flat fee encourages more frequent client contact which promotes quicker resolution.

Questions were asked and answered about collective bargaining strategy. The firm will participate in labor negotiations for the time being to develop the strategy. They practice frequent updates and good communication. The firm could provide training to department heads and union training as requested.

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Brian Greenberg, to appoint the firm of Clifford and Kenney as the labor counsel for the Town of Norwell. Unanimously voted

Recreation Commission applicant; Alethea Wait

Ms. Wait gave a summary of her background and reason for applying. She is currently employed by the contractor who coordinates the ski program for the Rec. Department.

Motion; made by Brian Greenberg, seconded by Jason Brown, to appoint Alethea Wait to the Recreation Commission for a term expiring 6/30/26. Unanimously voted

Appointment of Finance Director

Ms. Sullivan is proud to recommend Town Accountant Christine McCarthy for this position. Her excellent track record and performance speak for themselves. Ms. McCarthy thanked Ms. Sullivan and the board, noting her work experience in all of the positions that will report to her as Finance Director. She will continue her role as Town Accountant in addition to this new position.

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Brian Greenberg, to appoint Christine McCarthy as Finance Director for the Town of Norwell. Unanimously voted

Future Meeting Agendas/Dates; 11/15, 12/6

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Andy Reardon, to adjourn at 8:37pm. Unanimously voted

Peter W. Smellie, Chair