**Norwell Select Board**

**9-8-21**

**Open session minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bruce Graham at 7:00pm. Peter Smellie was absent due to illness.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Ellen Allen, to approve the agenda. Unanimously voted*

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the Open Session Meeting minutes for 8/25/21. Unanimously voted*

**BOS Reports and Announcements**

The board noted the 20th anniversary of 9/11/01, remembering those who lost their lives in the tragic event.

**Town Administrator**

The vacant seat on the Planning Board will be discussed at the next Select Board meeting. The Planning Board will be present. A notice will be posted on the Home page of the Town website inviting residents to apply for this temporary seat. A permanent board member will be elected in May, 2022.

**Citizen Comments - None**

**Council on Aging (COA) – Update**
COA Director Susan Curtin presented her annual update. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the COA! September is national senior center month. The council will host an open house to celebrate the event on 9/22/21. See the COA website for details.

New COA member Ralph Rivkind has been actively involved with the board to begin working on their goals.

The new COA program is called “Live Well Age Well Norwell” with a target on senior education and retirement/financial planning. The local churches are partnering with the COA to present a 5 part series through 11/16/21. Programs will be held at the new library and Spotlight TV will record them for online viewing. Spotlight TV segments on topics such as Medicare will be forthcoming. The COA has asked the community for feedback on relevant topics.

There is a strong relationship with the Fire and Police departments. Additional training in both departments for areas such as protective services (to address senior abuse) has been included in the curriculum.

All discussed next steps to implement necessary changes to the accessory dwelling bylaw. The MAPC is also holding meetings on this topic. All discussed co-housing as a possible option for seniors who want to stay in their homes. These future topics will also need to involve the Planning Board to address zoning changes.

Mr. Reardon will attend the COA meeting next week. Ms. Allen asked if anyone on the COA would be interested in serving on the CHT as there is one vacant seat.

Other news:

The patio project is out for bid.

The COA received a $10K grant for the meals program, which will help to offset the cost of food. They are hoping for additional grant money to hire a parttime chef.

Everyone thanked Ms. Curtin and her team for a job well done!

* Rivkind joined the board, who will present their goals at the next COA meeting.r

**Norwell Housing Authority – Amend tenant committee seat term**

Mr. Morin reported that the correct term limit for this appointment is 5 years. The board re-voted the appointment with a term ending 6/30/26.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Ellen Allen, to appoint Linda A. Doyle to the Norwell Housing Authority for a term ending 6/30/26. Unanimously voted*

**COVID Vaccine and Mask Mandate update**

Mr. Graham reviewed the status of mask requirements with regard to vaccination status for Town Hall. He would like to continue the current protocol: “vaccinated/no mask required”. Per Mr. Morin, there is no state mandate yet for town halls. He added that there has been exceptional compliance with protocols by Town employees and gave examples of all precautions currently in place. Masks are not required at personal work spaces. When employees are ill they stay home; when exposed they are tested and do not return to work until test results are negative. To date, not one work related exposure/illness has occurred since the beginning of the pandemic. Were a mandate to come down from the state, the Town would probably want to comply but one is not necessary at this time for Town Hall. Mandates could be put in place for other buildings as necessary. Board members supported this. Mr. Morin added that the vaccination rate at Town Hall is very high. There are also testing protocols in place (rapid testing at the Fire Department) for any employee who has been exposed. Mr. Morin reviewed protection options for all employees. He noted that cooperation and attentiveness of the Town Hall work force has produced good compliance with protective measures. Everyone has done a good job of reducing the risk in the workspace.

**Circuit Street OSRD conservation land acceptance and grant of easements**

Landowner Mark Raimondi is donating 2 open space parcels totaling 10.52 acres off Circuit Street to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission in return for two easements to manage drainage and vegetation for his Hitching Post Lane development. Planning Board Chair Brendan Sullivan was present to give the board an overview of this transaction.

Ms. Allen asked for a description of the conservation land being transferred. This is a big chunk of land with wetlands and a trail around the perimeter. Discussion ensued about the Town’s maintenance responsibilities for this and other Town owned land and the intent to add a conservation restriction.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Ellen Allen, that the board approve the donation of two Open Space parcels as described in the Quitclaim deed, in relation to an approved OSRD Definitive Plan granted by the Town of Norwell Planning Board, as presented this evening. Unanimously voted*

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Ellen Allen, to approve the grant of two easements to address vegetation management and flow/drainage for the development as presented to the board this evening. Unanimously voted*

**Delegate Authority to Town Administrator for approval of road races**

The board discussed reasons to delegate approval authority to the Town Administrator for upcoming road races. Mr. Morin will follow the exact procedure now in place; approval and race day conditions from the Police, Highway, Fire, Cushing Center, Schools and Recreation departments. All discussed race fees, noting that many races are charity events. Whoever takes over as deputy police chief will be that department’s contact. Mr. Brown would like this delegation of approval authority to be a periodic event, perhaps every two years. Discussion ensued with the board debating pros and cons of this action.

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Ellen Allen, that the board delegate the approval authority for road races in the town of Norwell to the Town Administrator. Unanimously voted*

**FY22 Select Board Focus Areas – Discuss and finalize**

The board continued their discussion of focus areas but did not finalize the list as Mr. Smellie was not at the meeting. An updated draft will be presented at a future meeting.

**Future Meeting Agendas**

The board made edits to the list of topics during the Focus Areas review. An updated agenda schedule will be discussed at the next meeting on 9/22/21.

**Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Ellen Allen, to adjourn at 9:31pm. Unanimously voted*

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**Bruce Graham, Chair**