

**TOWN OF NORWELL
Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2016**

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TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

The Advisory Board was called to order by Roger Hughes at 7:00pm. Present were Jacky McClean, Susan Powell, Jane Stout, Ralph Gordon, Tim Greene and Karen Reynolds. Mark Maiellano was absent. Also present was Town Administrator Peter Morin.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Acceptance of Minutes - Roger asked for questions or comments about the March 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes. With no comments, motion to accept Minutes from March 8, 2016. *Seconded and passed 6-0-2.*

ACTION ITEMS / DISCUSSIONS

WARRANT ARTICLES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Article 27 - This Article seeks to amend the General Bylaw for Wetland Protection by adding *with the addition that Cornell Rainfall Data must be utilized to design and evaluate any and all stormwater systems or components* will be accepted as fulfilling the filing requirements of the bylaw. This is a housekeeping Article to create consistent town wide regulatory permit filing guidelines. Motion to accept Article 29 of the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting as drafted. *Seconded and passed 7-0.*

Article 44 - This Article seeks a sum of money to conduct an engineering study/traffic analysis of the feasibility of opening the second entrance at the Vinal School to vehicular traffic to alleviate traffic congestion along Old Oaken Bucket during drop off and pick up times. Kate Boudreau and Ed Cox summarized the situation along Old Oaken Bucket, the steps taken to control the problem and the lack of response from Vinal School. Since there is no specific amount requested, the AB deferred action and recommends discussing with Linda Murphy, of the Highway Department, the steps for procuring an estimate of the cost for the traffic study.

Articles 57-65 - These Articles seek to amend the Zoning Bylaws to allow billboards within the Town of Norwell. These Bylaws define what a billboard is and where it can be placed along a highway specifically Route 3. These Bylaws will be compliant with all State regulations to create an overlay district. An important regulation of note is no billboard can be seen from any house. One to three billboards could be erected by special permit. These billboards would provide revenues for the Town. This is a digital sign that changes every 10 seconds and rotates through six advertisements. One will contain public service announcements and can be used for announcements for Norwell residents such as "Town Meeting tonight." There will be No adult content. The Board of Selectmen also have several Articles (19 & 20) in the Warrant to address these bylaws. The AB recommends discussing and agreeing to a common Article. Also the Planning Board must approve these changes.

Article 53 - This Article seeks to amend the Town Rules and Bylaws by inserting a new section that regulates Eligibility of appointment to a Town board, committee or commission. No person may be appointed to a board, committee or commission who is 90 days delinquent, through no fault of their own, in paying any tax, fee, fine, penalty, charge or other financial obligation to the town. The AB discussed at length the pros, (will encourage residents to pay taxes) and cons, (very difficult to enforce and especially

difficult to determine "no fault of their own.") The AB deferred this Article for further review with Town Counsel.

Article 51 & 52 - This Article seeks to amend the Town Rules and Bylaws by inserting a new section that regulates the Residence of elected and appointed Town Officials. "A bona fide "resident" is any natural person domiciled in the Town or any natural person not domiciled in the Town but who maintains a permanent place of abode for more than 183 days in Town." Again, the AB deferred this Article for further review with Town Counsel.

Article 49 & 50 - Article 49 seeks to reduce the Community Preservation Act surcharge from 3% to 1%. Article 50 seeks to revoke the Community Preservation Act that established a dedicated funding source to acquire, create and preserve open space, historic resources, land for recreational use and community housing; thereby removing the surcharge of 3% on the annual real estate tax levy. It is important to note that revoking the CPA is a two step process. Step 1: Article 50 must pass at Town Meeting in May. The Town may only proceed to Step 2 if Step 1 passes at Town Meeting. Step 2: Article 50 becomes a ballot question at the next Town Election. The CPA will dissolve only after these two requirements are met. The discussion revolved around getting this Article on the ballot so members of the Town who were unable to attend Town Meeting have a chance to vote for or against the CPA surcharge. The wording of the Article does not articulate this as a two step process. The AB is in favor of the CPA. Motion to oppose Article 49 of the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting as drafted. *Seconded and 6 members oppose the Article & 1 member agrees with the Article.*

Motion to oppose Article 50 of the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting as drafted. *Seconded and 6 members oppose the Article & 1 member agrees with the Article.*

Article 48 - This Article seeks to pass a special law to provide Norwell voters the ability to Recall Elected Officials who in their belief have failed to perform their duties in accordance with their oath of office. This bylaw makes it very difficult to have a recall and outlines the four steps of the recall process. Step 1: names specific reasons an Official of the Town may be recalled such as a conviction of a felony. Step 2: 10 or more registered voters may file a recall Notice of Intent with the Town Clerk. Step 3: Collect signatures from each of the three precincts and certify by the Registrar of Voters. Step 4: Hold a new election. Motion to oppose Article 52 of the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting as drafted. *Seconded and 4 members oppose the Article & 3 members agree with the Article.*

FUTURE MEETINGS

March 24, 2016 Personnel

March 29, 2016

Adjourn - Motion to Adjourn. *Seconded and passed 7-0.*


Roger Hughes, Chairman