

**TOWN OF NORWELL  
Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2016**

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TOWN CLERK  
2017 JAN 17 PM 2:12  
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The Advisory Board was called to order by Roger Hughes at 7:00pm. Present were Susan Powell, Jane Stout, Mark Maiellano, Amy Koch, Tim Greene, Ralph Gordon and Karen Reynolds. Jacky McLean arrived after Acceptance of Minutes.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**Acceptance of Minutes** - Roger asked for questions or comments about the October 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes. With no discussion, motion to accept the Minutes from October 25, 2016. *Seconded and passed 8-0.*

**ACTION ITEMS / DISCUSSIONS**

1. **Highway Department** - Newly elected Director/Highway Surveyor Glenn Ferguson presented an update of Highway Department projects completed and in progress. Most notably roads have been paved, due to low price of asphalt, 12 miles of roads paved since July!
  - a. There are 3-4 steps to paving including grinding, leveling & manhole covers, several layers of asphalt, curbing. These steps take time and slow progress at times.
  - b. Main Street project had the added challenges of shifting the road and fixing drainage issues.
  - c. Also completed - street sweeping and cleaning of 512 catch basins, installation of new guard rails, new STOP sign at Prospect and Grove
  - d. In progress - crack sealing of streets to help preserve road conditions, cleaning Highway Yard and construction of Salt Shed (Completion expected by end of November), installation of Highway Yard gate
  - e. Goals of Highway Department - continue to pave roads, keep Highway Yard organized and enforce follow through from subcontractors, hold subcontractors responsible for damage incurred on the job, purchase bucket truck for Tree and Grounds, increase safety of Town roads/ infrastructure and properties handled by Tree and Grounds Department.
2. **Water Department** - Water Commissioners Steve Ivas, Fred St.Ours and Jack McInnis delivered a thorough presentation about the state of Town water supply during the drought and its aftermath.
  - a. The water table has been in decline since January 2015 in Southeast Massachusetts. As of today it is 18 inches below average. Aquifers replenish with rain and snow after leaves fall from trees. The winter of 2016 was dry and aquifers were low at the beginning of the summer season. The drought aggravated the situation.

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- b. The Water Department pumps an average of 1 million gallons per day (mgd). At the beginning of the summer, consumption increased to 2 mgd. Water Department expanded their campaign to reduce water consumption including implementing the highest level of water restrictions, new signs were posted around Town, phone calls and even door to door visits to households using most water were employed to tremendous response. By August, at the peak of the drought, pumping was back to 1 million gallons per day.
  - c. The Water Department continues to search out probable spots in Town where new wells can be drilled to produce water.
  - d. Current Issues - Norwell Water Department is understaffed based on DEP standards, salting roads is contaminating Well #1, 10-15% increase of salt in water due to winter road maintenance, need a snowy winter to increase water table. Norwell will have a difficult time if drought continues.
  - e. AB questioned process for placing irrigation restrictions. Must put the issue to the Town and vote at Town Meeting.
  - f. The State is updating Water Management mandates. These mandates will significantly reduce the limit of water allowed to be pumped on average per day from 1.4mgd to 1.1mgd. Norwell has several new neighborhood developments that will increase the demand for water. This is likely to stress the Town's output and cause noncompliance.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

To be determined

**Adjourn** - Motion made to Adjourn. *Seconded and passed 9-0.*

  
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Roger Hughes, Chairman