



TOWN OF NORWELL
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**Norwell Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
3/19/2020**

The Advisory Board was called to order by Jesse McSweeney at 7:00 P.M. Also present were Town Administrator Peter Morin, Chair Peter Smellie, and Board Members Mark Cleveland, Susan Darnell, Rick Goulding, Jesse McSweeney, Karen Reynolds, and Kate Steele. Unable to attend were Harry Solis and Julie Sim. The meeting was held in the Osborn Room and remotely, as allowed under the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Minutes – The minutes of the March 10 and 12 meetings were distributed and reviewed.

Motion made to accept the Minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting as submitted. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Motion made to accept the Minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting as submitted. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Bills – Mr. Morin noted that he had signed payment vouchers of \$93.75 and \$118.75 for the stenographer.

Motion made to approve the vouchers signed by the Town Administrator. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests – None

Correspondence/Notices – None

Action Items / Discussions – None

FY 21 Budget - Article 2

Mr. Morin advised that the proposed FY 21 Town budget totaled \$56,932,850, the FY 21 Water budget totaled \$1,441,445, and the FY 21 CPA Administration budget totaled \$67,500, for a total of \$58,441,795. He had not changed any recommendations since individual departmental requests were discussed with the Board.

Motion made to recommend for FY 21 the amounts of \$56,932,850 for the Town budget; \$1,441,445 for the Water Department budget, and \$67,500 for the CPA Administration budget, for a total amount of \$58,441,795. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

2020 TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

Elevated Access

Mr. Morin recommended that the Board table the discussion, as petitioner did not appear.

CPC Articles

Vice Chair Julie Gillis present to discuss articles approved by the Community Preservation Committee related to the expenditure of Community Preservation funds.

Special Town Meeting - Clipper Community Complex Handicap Accessibility

This article proposes to add paved handicap parking spots and a paved pathway to the Clipper Community Complex, at a cost of \$88,200.

Motion to accept the Special Town Meeting article to allocate \$88,200 from the Community Preservation fund to construct paved handicapped parking spaces and an access path to the Clipper Community Complex. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Special Town Meeting - Gaffield Parking Lot / Pathway Connection

This article allocates \$130,000 to design and construct a paved 24-vehicle parking lot and pathway connection to Gaffield Park. Recreation Superintendent George Grey noted that the existing dirt/gravel lot is difficult to maintain, and this would improve accessibility to the park, which itself was newly renovated last year.

Motion made to accept the Special Town Meeting article to allocate \$130,000 from the Community Preservation fund to construct a paved parking lot and pathway connection to Gaffield Park. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Annual Town Meeting - Wildcat Parking Lot

This article, submitted to CPC by the Conservation Commission, allocates \$30,000 to pave and add two additional parking spaces to the lot at the Wildcat entry to the Donovan/Wildcat trails.

All parties discussed the inclusion of language regarding ADA accessibility, with Mr. Cleveland questioning whether this would bound the town to make the trails themselves ADA compliant. Mr. Morin stated that the lot would be ADA compliant regardless of whether the article language specified such; Board consensus was to remove the language.

Motion to accept the Annual Town Meeting article to allocate \$30,000 from the Community Preservation fund to expand and pave the parking lot at the Wildcat entry to the Donovan/Wildcat trails as amended. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Annual Town Meeting - Cow Path / Nathan Cushing Homestead Restoration

This article allocates \$90,000 to restore the Nathan Cushing homestead and clear a 400 ft long cow path and stone wall on the property.

Motion to accept the Annual Town Meeting article to allocate \$90,000 from the Community Preservation fund for restoration of the Nathan Cushing homestead, cow path, and stone wall. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Annual Town Meeting - Wildcat Lane Housing Initiatives

This article allocates \$300,000 to allow the Community Housing Trust to arrange for surveying, perc testing, wetland delineation, preliminary design planning, and other actions related to the creation of affordable housing in the Town. Ms. Gillis indicated that a similar distribution had been made in the past, and that there were sufficient funds on hand to do so.

Motion to accept the Annual Town Meeting article to allocate \$300,000 from the Community Preservation fund to the Community Housing Trust to take actions related to the creation of affordable housing in Norwell. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Annual Town Meeting - Whiting Fields Trails / Parking

This article, co-sponsored by the Pathways Commission and Conservation Commission, allocates \$75,000 for a feasibility study and conceptual plan for a parking area and access trails to the Carleton Property trail network as well as connections to existing trails on adjacent Conservation properties.

Motion to accept the Annual Town Meeting article to allocate \$75,000 from the Community Preservation fund for a feasibility study for parking and access trails to the Carleton Property trail network. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Annual Town Meeting - Clipper Community Complex Restrooms

This article, sponsored by the Athletic Fields Committee, School Committee, and Board of Selectmen, would allocate \$295,125 to construct fully operational, ADA and building code compliant restrooms on the Clipper Community Complex, attached to the existing building and utilizing the existing septic system. Mr. Morin anticipates that maintenance cost would be built into the field usage fees. The proposal originated with a "selectmen instruction" at the close of last year's town meeting, and the cost was pared back from an original estimate of \$400.

Motion to accept the Annual Town Meeting article to allocate \$295,125 from the Community Preservation fund to install restroom facilities at the Clipper Community Complex. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Annual Town Meeting - East Field Pathway

This article, sponsored by the Recreation Commission, allocates \$140,000 to pave the pathway to the East Field, in back of Town Hall. This would improve access to the field and encourage increased usage and reduce the pressure on other fields.

Mr. Morin noted that the Town had received feedback from the Architectural Access Board in 2015 to improve access to parks and playgrounds; as the Reynolds and Gaffield playgrounds have now been renovated, they are moving on to playing fields. Mr. Cleveland questioned again whether doing so would obligate the town to make every trail in town ADA-compliant, but Messrs. Morin and Grey drew a distinction between conservation trails, the already paved Town Pathway, and access paths to recreational facilities.

Motion to accept the Annual Town Meeting article to allocate \$140,000 from the Community Preservation fund for the purpose of paving the East Field Connector Path. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Annual Town Meeting - Affordable Housing

CPC Vice Chair Gillis noted that the CPC has an obligation to reserve a certain percentage of fiscal year CPA funds for the purposes of affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space conservation; this article proposes to reserve \$82,000 for affordable housing, and \$135,000 each for historic preservation and open space.

Ms. Reynolds questioned why the affordable housing allocation was lower than the other two allocations; Ms. Gillis indicated this was due to the 300K allocation to the Community Housing Trust. Ms. Reynolds noted that the funds allocated for recreational projects were greater than \$300K, but Town Accountant Donna Mangan indicated that funds allocated for recreation did not count toward the required 10% distribution, and that the distribution for open space could not be reduced. After further discussion, the matter was tabled to allow Ms. Gillis to inquire about adjusting the distributions for affordable housing and historic preservation.

MISCELLANEOUS

On the agenda for Tuesday are Capital Budget, and Carleton Property Committee articles. All parties discussed an article proposing that approximately 8.3 acres of the property be allocated to the Community Housing Trust. Mr. Cleveland indicated that his understanding leaving last year's Town Meeting was that there was no plan for affordable housing on any portion of the property, and this may be the impression of other residents. Mr. Morin stated there was no specific proposal for housing on the parcel at this time, and noted that a motion to place the entire property under the custody of the Conservation Commission was defeated. The matter was tabled to allow the proponents of the article to provide additional detail next Tuesday.

FUTURE MEETINGS

March 24, 26, and 31; April 2.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn at 8:25 P.M. Seconded and passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Peter Smellie, Chair