

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2016**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK
2016 JAN 14 PM 12: 17

RECEIVED

Mr. McBride opened the meeting at 7:38pm, and introduced Jason Brown, Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin.

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved the agenda as written. Seconded by Peter Smellie and unanimously voted.

REPORTS

Citizen Comments – None

Selectmen's Report -

Mr. McBride reported that the board has decided not to appeal the court decision ruling against the pathwalk project on Main Street. The board will address future sidewalk projects in upcoming meetings, and would like to reassure Town residents that they have not abandoned pursuing sidewalks in the Town!

Ms. Demong met with the Beautification Committee to discuss the landscaping project for the Road to Responsibility group home in the Town Center. This project will begin when planting is feasible in the spring.

Town Administrator's Report

Facilities Manager Dave Sutton and Mr. Morin will be meeting with Colliers International to discuss the upcoming facilities audit, which will take place on January 11th. Mr. Morin will send the specific time information to any who are interested in attending the meeting.

CHT - The RFP for the 40 River Street project was issued on November 16th, and a second site visit took place on December 11th. There was a good amount of interest expressed in the project by well-respected nonprofit agencies. The bids are due by 3pm on January 15th. The RFP has gotten favorable comments, and the CHT is hoping to receive some competitive bids for the project.

EDC – Members of Norwell's business community will be receiving a survey asking for ideas to enhance economic development opportunities in the Town. The first hundred surveys went out this week, and ultimately every business in the Town will be surveyed.

COD – The Committee on Disabilities met with Mr. Morin. They would like to have a meeting at Town Hall on February 3rd, from 6:30-8, on the American Disabilities Act, and would like all committees to attend in order to clarify any misinterpretation of the law. A COD meeting on this date would require that the BOS meeting start later. The COD's message is that compliance with ADA is not as difficult if a project is in compliance from the beginning. Mr. Morin will follow up with the committee to schedule this meeting.

Mr. Morin gave an overview to the BOS regarding a request for information received by the Town. Northeastern University and WCVB did a statewide test of the Freedom of Information Act, asking for each town's data on use of force information from the Police Department and salaries information for Town employees. The statewide test scores, averaging 57%, were not good, but Norwell did a better than average job. Treasurer Darleen Sullivan responded right away to the salaries information request, but there was a clerical error with the Police information sent out. Both departments responded within the requisite 10 day period. As neither

department heard back, both thought they were in compliance. Mr. Morin would like to be in the loop on all such information requests, which must be sent within 10 days.

Ms. Allen stated that there is a bill before the legislature to address handling of requests to towns for public record information. She also agreed that it will be good to spread the word that ALL information requests should go through The Town Administrator.

Announcements:

The Fire Department is now taking applications for the CERT program, which will help train citizens to be better prepared in the event of an emergency. Applications are available at the Fire Station, in the Osborne Room or online.

Ms. Allen stated that prior volunteers were most helpful. This is a follow-up to the planning begun this past winter. The training is once a week commitment for a period of time.

Mr. McBride thanked Chief Reardon for all his hard work organizing the shelter last winter.

Press release from Norwell Cable Committee: on January 21st at 7:30, an open meeting will be held for residents to attend and give feedback on the Town's current cable service. The committee is interested in hearing feedback on all aspects of the cable service in the Town, and would also like to hear suggestions for spending the PEG money. The contact for written comments is the Chair of the Cable Committee.

Energy Committee Disbanding

Committee member Bob McMackin stated that it makes sense to disband the committee and gave reasons for this decision. The new Green Community grant received for \$146,000 will help address some of the topics and action items of this committee. Kudos were given by the BOS to the committee for all their hard work. Mr. McMackin highlighted several members of the committee who made significant contributions to the Town.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to disband the committee and thank them for all their hard work. Unanimously voted

Resignation from the Conservation Commission and By-Law Review Committee

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to accept with regret the resignation of Bruce Humphrey from the Conservation Commission and the By-Law Review Committee. Unanimously voted

Conservation Commission Applicant

Mr. McMackin has applied to become a member of the Conservation Commission.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Bob McMackin to the Conservation Commission for a term ending June 30, 2018. Unanimously voted

Norwell Reads Program

Diane Rodriguez, Adult Service Librarian, and Betsy Detwiler gave an overview of this year's book, "The Martian", by Andy Weir.

Highlights of this year's program include a February 6th event in which Astronaut Sunita Williams, MA native, will be talking to the audience via Skype. Programs will include lots of information about space travel and life in space. The movie "The Martian" will also be shown. The BOS thanked them for the wonderful program and for copies of the book.

Library Town Hall study Committee

All committee members were present. The Chair gave an update, and stated that the final draft of the report will be forthcoming very soon. He also gave an overview of the draft, which includes their findings and the compromise solution.

The committee has completed the majority of the tasks assigned. The next step is to move forward with a new committee to do the feasibility study required, and they would like to recommend the formation of this committee. To recap: the LTHSC recommends that it should be made up of the PBMC, Library Trustees and the library director in the initial phase, so that the library personnel have good opportunities for input into the design.

Ms. Crystal would like to suggest that the committee now disband, give their findings, and suggest direction for the subsequent committee. Mr. McBride concurred with this. Other Next Steps will be included in their report, including recommendations for the Town Hall. They will double check with the BOS to see if the report can be made available to residents.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to formally accept the recommendation of this committee. Unanimously voted

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to disband the LTHSC with the thanks of the board. Unanimously voted

The upcoming committee composition was discussed. Mr. McBride would like to put together a formal statement for next week's meeting about this committee. Any interested party could attend, but the committee will probably be composed of Library Trustees and the PBMC. A copy of the report will be available electronically tomorrow.

Ms. Crystal stated that there is now a foundation to raise funds for the library. Please come and be involved in this project.

2016 Mileage Rate

The mileage rate has been reduced this year.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adopt the IRS rate of 54 cents per mile. Unanimously voted

Lyme Disease Program

Ms. Demong suggested to the Board that Norwell consider working with the URI Tick Encounter Program to provide outreach and education to residents about tick bite prevention, since the state is not providing any assistance to towns to combat tick borne illness. She described the program, which would give residents a resource for this widespread issue. URI offers an abundance and great variety of outreach and educational materials as well as tick testing services.

URI uses the program model of \$2 per resident, but stated that if other towns collaborate with Norwell, the cost per town will come down to \$8,000 per town. The program director, Dr. Thomas Mather, would like to give a talk on February 29th, meeting with the public for an hour and then with Town officials.

The BOS asked questions to clarify the scope of the program. The cost of the meeting would be \$700 plus mileage. Mr. Smellie would like to orchestrate this with the School Dept. to insure maximum attendance. Ms. Demong has drafted a letter asking neighboring towns if there is interest, with 3 towns as the target group. Ms. Allen would like to invite all on the list of towns. (not Weymouth and Braintree as they are too large). Ms. Allen stated that a grant would be helpful and perhaps MAPC would be willing to fund since it is a regional effort. Mr. McBride suggested that the BOH would be a good contact for surrounding towns and Ms. Demong is meeting with them in the next week. The letter should go to the BOS, Town Administrators, and the BOH in all invited towns. This would provide a good level of awareness, and would hopefully be put on BOS meeting agendas in other towns. Ms. Demong will report back next week.

The board approved the \$700 for the Feb 29th presentation. Mr. Morin is attending a South Shore Town Administrators meeting tomorrow and will bring this up. He will also include this on the BOS agenda for next week's meeting to finalize.

State of the Town Breakfast

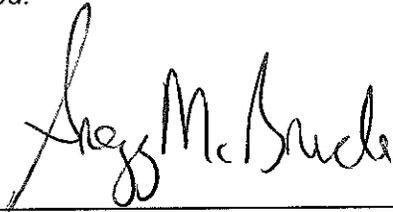
The Annual State of the Town breakfast is January 28th. Lynda will send the memo to all department heads.

Minutes Approval

All four sets of BOS meeting minutes for the month of December 2015 were approved in Executive Session.

Adjourn

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn at 8:24pm. Unanimously voted.



Board of Selectmen