

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2014**

Ellen Allen opened the meeting and introduced Jason Brown, Gregg McBride, David DeCoste, Tammie Garner and Town Administrator Jim Boudreau. *MOTION: Jason Brown moved the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 20, 2013 Public Hearing and October 16, 2013 Executive Session. *MOTION: David DeCoste moved to approve the Public Hearing minutes for March 20, 2013. Seconded and voted 3-0-2. Jason Brown and Tammie Garner were not on the Board and abstained. MOTION: Jason Brown moved to approve the Executive Session minutes for October 16, 2013. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

7:35 Rebecca Allen – Cemetery Committee Applicant – Rebecca Allen briefed the Board of Selectmen on why she is interested in serving on the Cemetery Committee. Spends a lot of time at the cemetery and enjoys her time there. She had attended a few of the meetings and feels that she would be able to make a positive and enthusiastic contribution with the new Stetson Meadows Cemetery. The Board thanked her for volunteering. *MOTION: Jason Brown moved to appoint Rebecca Allen to the Cemetery Committee to a Term Expiring June 30, 2015 to fill an expiring term. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

8:00 National Grid – Emergency Response and Service Improvements – Present: Joe Carroll and Jeff Merritt. Mr. Carroll reported no power outages for Norwell for the recent storm. Mt. Blue sub-station is an existing station that has had a major overhaul with new circuits and transformers. Doubles the size of the transformer. Put Scituate circuit back into station cutting down on issue. New switches and trimming. Transmission lines feeding station had new arms installed and capacity increased. \$13 million in transmission work and \$3 million in sub-station work.

Jason Brown asked if the changes to the sub-station improved our reliability. All the work that is being done has helped. Allows for switching and moving around trouble areas. Another \$4 million in transformers and associated work. River Street is scheduled next for lines from that end of Hanover and relocating transmission line near Hanover Mall. Another \$1 million in work. Gone through the Town and looked at “cut-outs” on transformers in Town. Replacing them all over Town. Gregg McBride asked about the problems with the line coming from Scituate and why that causes so much power problem. Line comes from Abington to Norwell and Scituate. With the old transformer, power was back fed from Scituate. New Transformer cuts out that loop and shortens what was an 8 mile loop to something much shorter. NGrid is also doing extensive tree work. Usually a 5 year cycle. Line out from Town Hall is a 22 mile circuit that they are finishing. Adds another \$300,000. Trying to improve reliability.

OLD BUSINESS

EDC Charge and Composition Discussion – Mrs. Allen asked what the pleasure of the Board was for the EDC and suggested concentrating on Accord Park and Queen Anne’s Corner. Gregg McBride thinks that we need to make sure that the Planning Board is consulted and is on board or it will not succeed. Favors going ahead with Accord. Jason Brown agreed and added that we need to involve the public. There is a segment of the public that is opposed to anything, but the town needs economic development so we need to come to a meeting of the minds. Ellen

Allen mentioned that the opponents keep asking why does it keep coming back when town meeting voted against it. She explained that a Majority of Town Meeting voted for it both times, just not the 2/3 majority required. She also said that we would start facing budget issues in the next budget cycle. Tammie Garner asked how do we get the Planning Board involved? Boudreau said we have invited the Planning Board to come and discuss this along with their request to discuss plans they are developing for the Town Center. David DeCoste echoed the comments of the other members. Feels we should include some of the people who opposed the zoning changes on the EDC.

NEW BUSINESS

Honorary Citizen Request – Eugene Blanchard, Esq. represents AFS who has placed foreign exchange student Najiha Norizan of Malaysia at Norwell High School for the spring term. Attorney Blanchard has requested that the Norwell Board of Selectmen present her with a Certificate naming her as an Honorary Citizen of the Town of Norwell. *Motion: Jason Brown moved to name Najiha Norizan an Honorary Citizen of Norwell. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

MMA Annual Meeting – Discussion revolved around dividing up the break out sessions to ensure good coverage on important topics. Ellen Allen went over the MMA resolutions and whether the Town should support them or not.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

MMA Annual Meeting feedback on 2/5, Budget & Audit and BOS Articles on 1/29. Other unscheduled future agenda items: Planning Board, Energy Committee and Paul Foulsham to update the Board on safety improvements to Winter St. and plans for dangerous intersection.

ADJOURNMENT – *Motion was made to adjourn. Seconded and unanimously voted.*



Board of Selectmen