

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2017**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK  
2017 MAR -2 PM 1:42

**Present:** Jason Brown, Ellen Allen, Gregg McBride, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie, Peter Morin

**Open session**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Brown as the board continued their meeting in the Osborn Room. The agenda was changed to move agenda item J up to follow agenda item C.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimously voted.*

**Citizen Comments** – None

**Selectmen's Reports and Announcements** - None

**Town Administrator's Report**

After consulting with the public safety departments, Town Hall will be closed tomorrow due to the winter storm warnings.

Mr. Morin announced that the search for the new Town Planner has been suspended. He sent correspondence to the Planning Board stating that, after looking at the finalist candidates' references, he would not hire either one as they did not have appropriate qualifications for the Town. He will search for an interim Town Planner to fill in through the end of FY2017, and start the search for a permanent replacement in July.

**Beautification Committee Applicant**

Beth Burke gave an overview of her background and reasons for applying to this committee.

*Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Beth Burke to the Beautification Committee for a term expiring 6/30/20. Unanimously voted*

**Susan Curtin- Economic Profile for Seniors**

Ms. Curtin, COA Director, gave background information on the reasons for seeking this information through a survey. She gave the board a profile of elderly residents in the Town, highlighting their need for financial security. Ms. Curtin gave statistics comparing the Town to the state as a whole and its rank in the nation for financial coverage of the bare necessities (49<sup>th</sup>).

There is a wide disparity in the Town's income per household for wage earners vs. those living on Social Security. The average home price is about \$575K, with real estate taxes of approximately \$9400. In the packet given to the board is a draft of a survey that she would like to put in the next COA newsletter.

Ms. Curtin hopes that the BOS will support this data collection. Ms. Demong would like to add a question asking if residents would be willing to downsize and remain in Norwell (rental property). Mr. McBride reminded all that the Community Housing Trust had a series of Q. and A. sessions for seniors and also sent out a questionnaire collecting some of this data. All agreed that there is a serious dichotomy in the Town for income levels. Mr. Brown asked how she will use this information. Per Ms. Curtin, with the reports generated from the survey data she will try to determine a range of affordability and what people are looking for. Ms. Allen asked her to include the specific exemptions so that people could check them off. This will help to plan the

Department budget. Mr. Dillon reminded all that trash collection and recycling information is on the Town website.

Mr. McBride asked about hazardous waste disposal. Per Mr. Dillon, all hazardous waste goes to the Hanover dump.

Ms. Demong asked about the tick education budget, which would need a funding Article on the Warrant again this year

Mr. Dillon stated that the Town is running between 37% and 40% recycling, which is way up since the PAYT program began. Kudos to the whole Health Department for addressing this cost problem and making it work!

#### **Fred St. Ours/Peter Dillon – Water Department**

Fred St. Ours, Chair of the Board of Water Commissioners, stated that this is a level budget request, plus one new maintenance person for a total of 4 people. The increase would be \$43.5K more than last year. This department has had the same staff for twenty years, and are currently handling twice as many service calls and more customers than in prior years. It also supports an aging water/well infrastructure. Mr. Dillon summarized the issues with this system and the need for additional help. Questions were asked and answered about last year's drought and water use violations. Mr. Dillon reminded all that most of the overuse is still caused by automatic lawn watering. The wells are in much better shape with all the rain that's fallen. If there is normal rainfall going into the summer the wells should be in good shape. All thanked them for coming in.

#### **Wendy Bawabe – MA Historical Commission Preservation Award**

Ms. Bawabe, Chair of the Norwell Historical Society, introduced herself and gave the background for preservation awards from MA Historical Society. Voted by NHC, this nomination of David DeGhetto is for restoration of the John Otis farmhouse on Pleasant Street. A letter of support from the BOS is requested.

Ms. Bawabe gave an overview of the house that has been restored, with before and after pictures. The house was slated for demolition, but was purchased and restored by Mr. DeGhetto. She noted that the restored water tower is one of only 3 in the Town.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, that the BOS provide a letter of support for the nomination of the John Otis property for a 2017 Preservation Award for Rehabilitation and Restoration as stated in the resolution. (see attached letter). Unanimously voted*

#### **Appointment of Treasurer Custodian of Tax Possession Property**

Per Mr. Morin, this appointment will allow Treasurer Darleen Sullivan to work more efficiently to administer properties being taken for unpaid taxes.

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, as provided under MGL Chapter 60, Section 77B, that the Town of Norwell Board of Selectmen hereby move to appoint the Town Treasurer as Tax Possession Custodian, who shall have the care, custody, management and control of all property acquired by foreclosure, deed in-lieu of foreclosure or by Treasurer's deed for unpaid taxes.*

*The Treasurer, acting in this capacity, shall not personally benefit, nor will any member of their immediate family benefit from any activities conducted while acting as Tax Possession Custodian. The Treasurer is not an elected official; the Town is in compliance with MGL Chapter 268A. Unanimously voted*

The only town in the area not to ban recreational use is Halifax. Mr. Morin will report back on this topic, which will be on a future agenda.

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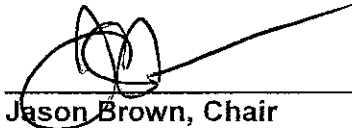
**Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn at 9:32pm. Unanimously voted*

**Future meetings:**

3/1 - Norwell farms license for Jacobs Farm

3/1 - Highway Surveyor; fee for road races

  
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Jason Brown, Chair



OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
**TOWN OF NORWELL**

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February 8, 2017

2017 Preservation Awards  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125-3314

To Whom It May Concern:

The Norwell Board of Selectmen is pleased to offer its support of the nomination of the John Otis Property located at 143 Pleasant Street in Norwell, Massachusetts for a 2017 Preservation Award for Rehabilitation and Restoration. In furtherance of this nomination the Board adopted the following resolution.

Whereas the John Otis Property was in danger of demolition in 2013 and David DeGhetto purchased the house and outbuildings in 2014 for the sole purpose of restoration; and

Whereas the Otis Property is located on a much-travelled road in Norwell and is viewed regularly by townspeople; and

Whereas the Otis house, barn and water tower are now impeccable examples of historic restoration and its benefits to the entire community; and

Whereas the Otis Property is a great architectural and historical resource to the Town of Norwell.

Now, therefore, be it resolved the Norwell Board of Selectmen has the honor to support the nomination by the Norwell Historical Society of the John Otis Property at 143 Pleasant Street for a Massachusetts Historical Commission 2017 Preservation Award.

Sincerely,

Jason Brown, Chair  
Norwell Board of Selectmen