

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Norwell Planning Board  
Open Meeting Minutes  
12/11/19**

TOWN OF NORWELL  
TOWN CLERK

2020 FEB -5 PM 2: 26

**Present:** Ellen Allen, Jason Brown, Alison Demong, Bruce Graham, Peter Morin  
Brendan Sullivan, Brian Greenberg, Scott Fitzgerald, Town Planner Ken Kirkland

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The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Ellen Allen.  
The Planning Board meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Planning Board Chair Brendan Sullivan.

**Appointment of New Member – Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen**

Ms. Allen explained that the BOS & Planning Board are charged with jointly filling Patrick Campbell's vacated seat on the Planning Board (PB) until the Town Election in May 2020. Don Mauch and Brad Washburn have both expressed interest in the seat. Mr. Graham also suggested Mr. Mark P. Bailey, who had served two (2) terms with him on the PB, but agreed that Mr. Mauch and Mr. Washburn were also well qualified.

Ms. Allen noted that Mr. Washburn served on the PB for six (6) years, and was currently the Director of Planning and Development in Scituate. He has also been involved with the MAPC project at Queen Anne's Corner, and could take Mr. Campbell's place as MAPC liaison. Ms. Demong recommended that Mr. Washburn fill the seat given his involvement with MAPC and the need for a PB liaison to same.

Chair Sullivan supported Mr. Washburn as a strong candidate, but was unsure if he would run for the seat in the spring. Mr. Fitzgerald questioned Mr. Washburn's availability for meetings; Ms. Allen indicated that Mr. Washburn was aware of the PB's meeting schedule and presumably had checked his own schedule.

Mr. Brown noted that he had worked with Mr. Mauch for years, and felt Mr. Mauch had done very thorough work for the Planning Department. He had not worked directly with Mr. Washburn, but had no other issues with his appointment. Chair Sullivan and Mr. Fitzgerald agreed that Mr. Mauch had run the Department effectively after the departure of prior Town Planner Chris DiIorio. Mr. Graham expressed concern at Mr. Mauch's appointment to the seat based on what he characterized as a fundamental misunderstanding on Mr. Mauch's part of the purpose of the Open Space Bylaw, the effect of his proposed amendment to this Bylaw and a misrepresentation of then-Town Planner Todd Thomas' opinion regarding the Bylaw at Town Meeting. However, Mr. Graham indicated that Mr. Mauch subsequently admitted that he had been mistaken about the issue, and acknowledged Mr. Thomas' knowledge and qualifications. Selectmen Allen and Demong expressed concern at Mr. Mauch's stances on the construction of affordable housing and the Main Street sidewalk, and questioned whether he could be an effective liaison to the MAPC. Mr. Brown asked the Board if a candidate's intent to run for the seat in May was an important factor. Chair Sullivan's only concern was that it may cause quorum issues if hearings were continued and a new member took the seat in May.

After some further discussion, BOS voted 3- 1-0 (with Jason Brown dissenting) and the Planning Board 1-1-1(Sullivan yes, Fitzgerald no and Greenberg abstaining) to appoint Mr. Washburn to fill Mr. Campbell's seat.

The Selectmen left the PB meeting at this point to continue their own meeting as posted.

Ellen H. Allen  
Ellen Allen, Chair, BOS

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