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**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting Minutes
10/11/17**

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Open meeting

The board returned to Open Session at 7:35pm.

*Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the agenda as written.
Unanimously voted*

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

Citizen Comments – None

Selectmen's Reports and Announcements

The AG's office is conducting an Open Meeting training session on November 6th. The board would like to encourage all committee members and employees to attend.

Ms. Demong announced a talk on tick-borne illnesses at the High School on Tuesday, October 24th, at 7:30pm.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Morin reported that 4 responses to the Jacobs farmhouse RFQ were received. The Jacobs RFQ Committee will review each proposal and make a decision.

7:35 Susan Curtin, Commission on Disabilities (NCD) 2016 Survey

Ms. Curtin, Chair, and some of the committee members were present to review the survey results with the board. They received 250 responses, with 144 indicating a disability within the household. The committee would like to provide some support for individuals who don't qualify for the Community Housing Trust's Senior Grant program. More group homes could help to address this lack of support.

Better transportation assistance is needed in the Town, both for Seniors and disabled residents. Ms. Curtin further highlighted areas of need such as housing and employment opportunities. The committee would like to target two areas; transportation (this issue is too big for the NCD to address, so they would like BOS support), and education of community groups about accessibility needs. Mr. Morin will start attending MBTA advisory meetings to help address the transportation issue. Questions were asked and answered by the board about transportation. The BOS also reviewed survey comments about accessibility needs in public buildings. All thanked Ms. Curtin for bringing these issues to the forefront and encouraging residents to change the way they think about accessibility. Mr. Morin reminded all that field and park accessibility has been addressed in several Town Meeting Articles. Kudos to George Grey, Recreation Director, for addressing this issue up front with his knowledge gained from the school playground projects. Ms. Curtin thanked the board for their interest and time.

George Grey, Recreation Department Update

Mr. Grey stated that the Recreation Department programs had a banner summer. There was an increase of 200 participants over last year's enrollment - from 5101 to 5301. FY17 is the first

year that program growth kept the revolving fund from decreasing, making the program self-sustaining. The department provided scholarships for free summer programs to 9 participants from Rehoboth House. Lunch and snack service were added this year. The goal for this upcoming year is to increase adult programming. There are more working parents and more requests for adult programming.

Playgrounds update:

Reynolds Playground – fully operational as of this week. Some small projects still need completing, but there are lots of people enjoying this updated park.

The Gaffield Park project will begin over the next couple of months with RFP's, with the goal to begin work in the spring. Mr. Grey updated the board on some of the Gaffield Park fixes and the status of longer term issues that will be addressed with the rehab. One additional issue that needs separate attention is the condition and accessibility of the playground parking lot on River Street.

Mr. Grey asked for comments from the board; all complimented Mr. Grey on his outstanding work, which includes addressing the challenge of field use scheduling. Ms. Allen would like him to put in a budget request to underwrite scholarship funding for the summer programs. Mr. Grey will come up with an estimated amount (5-8K) to cover the shortfall of this program. Mr. Morin suggested making an adjustment to the fee schedule to cover the cost of these scholarships. Most residents know to call the Recreation department and talk to Mr. Grey or Judy Volpe if there is an issue. All thanked Mr. Grey again for his great work.

Street Naming Procedure

Mr. Brown recapped the previous meeting's discussion. Mr. Morin directed the board to the rules/bylaws for the naming of property or a memorial. A public hearing is required. The board would decide whether or not to hold a hearing based on the request. The board could ask for recommendations, but would make their own decision for this formal process. There are not a lot of new roads in Norwell, so naming opportunities are rare. As an option, the entranceway into the public safety building could be named after Chief Bradeen. Chief Bradeen's daughter Judy was present at this meeting and would be very pleased if this event could happen. A written request will be sent to the BOS office at the request of the board.

Future meetings:

10/18: Executive Session for land acquisition, and
Placeholder for a public vote in Open Session.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:15pm to discuss a potential land acquisition. Unanimously voted


Jason Brown, Chair

List of documents and other exhibits; copy of the NCD survey results