

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting Minutes
10/17/18**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

2018 NOV 15 PM 3: 13

Present: Ellen Allen, Jason Brown, Alison Demong, Joe Rull, Peter Morin

RECEIVED

Open session; 7:10pm – Conference Room, BOS office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:10pm.

Ms. Allen asked Ellen McKenna to complete a draft CPC application for the Zollin property as a placeholder. The board will discuss potential land acquisitions at next week's meeting.

All discussed strategy to increase Affordable Housing units in a way that would benefit the Town.

Approval of Minutes - None

Open Session, Reconvened in the Osborn Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Chair Ellen Allen. All rose to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Allen reminded all that this meeting is televised and recorded.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to approve the agenda as written.

BOS Reports and Announcements

Mr. Brown announced that the Electronic Voting Committee (EVC) is ready to move forward with an RFI (request for information) to select an electronic voting company for the 2019 Annual and Special Town Meeting. Mr. Brown referenced a system called Votes that would utilize smart phone technology, which can be used with iPhones and iPads. He summarized the mechanics of the system, noting that the application could also be utilized in other areas of town government. The EVC will schedule a time to come in and do a presentation for the BOS. E-voting will be tested at the upcoming spring Town Meeting on just a few of the Articles. A selling point is the fact that Votes is less expensive than other e-voting systems.

Ms. Demong reported on the Police 5K race, which was a big success and benefited local charitable organizations.

Swearing in Ceremony

Ms. Allen invited Police Chief Ross to come forward and introduce the three officers to be sworn in as Sergeants.

Chief Ross introduced Sgt. Johnson and read a summary of his background and his current duties in the police department, highlighting his achievements and commendations. Sgt. Johnson's family was present to pin his new badge on his uniform.

Chief Ross introduced Sgt. Dooley and read a summary of his background and his current duties in the police department, highlighting his achievements and commendations. Sgt. Dooley's family was present to pin his new badge on his uniform.

Chief Ross introduced Sgt. Pasteris and read a summary of his background and his current duties in the police department, highlighting his achievements and commendations. Sgt. Pasteris' family was present to pin his new badge on his uniform.

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The Town Clerk was present to swear in these three exceptional members of the Norwell Police Department. The board and Mr. Morin congratulated the new sergeants on their promotions.

Update on the Cable Committee

Committee Chair Steve Muzrall was present to update the board on the significant changes coming to the Town Hall's media programs.

The Cable Committee has voted to move forward with a partner agency, Harbor Media of Hingham. They have written a memo of understanding (MOU), which will allow the Town's cable functions to grow and also include training and outreach. One of the goals will be to air more Norwell based programs. Harbor Media will hire two Town-dedicated staff members who will be available as needed. The paid staff will also work with the volunteers. Mr. Muzrall highlighted a list of their available services which will expand cable operations in the Town. Harbor Media is proposing an initial outlay of \$24K to come up speed, then a quote of 127K for the first 6 months of operation. If the Town then decides to move forward another payment of 127K will be made. PEG funds would underwrite all of these expenses. The annual PEG income would cover the cost of the Harbor Media services, with any excess PEG \$\$ continuing to build the reserves each year. Any new equipment purchases would be owned by the Town. If the Town/BOS can finalize the agreement and sign the contract Harbor Media could start as soon as the funds are available.

Future Agenda items

October 24th meeting

1. Vote on the MOU next week with Harbor Media. The Cable Committee is welcome to attend next week. Questions were asked and answered about a cable program membership for residents to utilize the Harbor Media facilities, which are located near Derby Street. This is a nice reward for a long negotiation period. Mr. Muzrall listed the activities which will involve the cable functions and expanded services.
2. Next week's meeting will be in the Town Hall gym.
3. No Meeting on 10/31/18 – Halloween.
4. The first Harbor Media broadcast meeting will be November 7th.

Mr. Muzrall noted that there will be more supervision of the Town Hall video staff in the future. Questions were asked about the proposed media fee and options for various age groups such as seniors and high school students. Mr. Muzrall noted that residents' input would be welcome to help create a reasonable membership program for the Town. There will be many opportunities for high school students to become involved and learn the media business. The first year's activities will focus on the government channels. The personnel will be employees of Harbor Media. The board and Mr. Morin gave kudos to Mr. Muzrall and the Cable Committee for their hard work. A copy of the MOU will be given to Mr. Morin for review and next steps.

FEMA Flood Maps – Nancy Hemingway, Conservation Department

Conservation Agent Nancy Hemingway reported on preliminary changes to the FEMA flood maps, citing the links on the Conservation Commission webpage which are available for residents. She reviewed the steps to access the links to the FEMA website. The board discussed the potential impact on insurance rates for residents whose property flood plain designation has changed. All concluded that the Town should try to ensure that residents are aware of these changes and have the opportunity to give feedback to FEMA prior to the Nov. 10, 2018 deadline. The board and Mr. Morin will do a Town-wide mailing. Ms. Hemingway and her department will put together a postcard mailer to go out next week, noting that residents can obtain directions for filing an appeal in the Con Com office. She did a Power Point presentation on how to use the FEMA website. Mr. Morin will coordinate with Conservation office on the letter and mailing. Mr. Rull reminded all that this is a federal level program. All thanked Ms. Hemingway for coming in.

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Complete Streets Update

Planning Board member Pat Campbell and Glenn Ferguson were present. The Highway Department has completed the second quarter of the sidewalk project to Town Hall. The third quarter of the project will cross to the north side of Main Street down to Town Center. Both Mr. Campbell and Mr. Ferguson explained that it will cost slightly less to work on the north side, as there is a wider shoulder, fewer utility poles and not as many stone wall issues. Mr. Campbell reported that the Planning Board had a balance of \$130K in the Pedestrian Enhancement fund, 100K of which was spent to build the second quarter. Complete Streets would like to request \$20K to hire an engineering firm to design the third quarter of the sidewalk. The goal is to have a design and pricing in place for the project up to Lincoln Street in time to draft a Warrant Article for the spring Town Meeting. The design is already in place for the fourth quarter of the project from Lincoln Street to Town Center. The Planning Board has approved this request and is asking the BOS to authorize this expenditure from the Pedestrian Enhancement funds. Mr. Morin would like the board to vote on this at next week's meeting.

The vote will be on next week's BOS meeting agenda, but the board will also take a vote tonight.

Motion, made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong; that the BOS authorize the transfer of \$20K for sidewalk design work from the Pedestrian Enhancement fund to the Complete Streets Committee. Unanimously voted

Mr. Ferguson asked that the board confirm that the Conservation Commission is on board with these plans. Per Mr. Campbell, the state's policy is that the Town cannot ask for a Complete Streets grant two years in a row, so any state funding ask would have a one-year delay. All discussed the cost of these sidewalk projects, noting that this third quarter would probably be slightly cheaper as there is no need for granite curbing, but would still cost between \$400-500K. A ballpark figure is about \$125 per foot.

Cultural Council Appointment

Motion; made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Susan Solis to the Cultural Council for a term ending 6/30/21. Unanimously voted

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn at 8:39pm. Unanimously voted


Ellen Allen, Chair