

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting Minutes
6/19/19**

TOWN OF NORWELL
2019 JUL 25 AM 11:22
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Open Session at 7:30pm

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:35pm. She reminded all that the meeting is televised and recorded. All rose to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

*Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the agenda as written.
Unanimously voted*

Citizen Comments – None

Selectmen Announcements - None

Town Administrator reports – None

Application to Council on Aging -Alexis Levitt

Ms. Levitt gave a summary of her background and reasons for applying. She has been attending some of the meetings and her expertise as an elder law attorney will be much appreciated.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to appoint Alexis Levitt to the Council on Aging for a term ending 6/30/22. Unanimously voted

Application to Norwell Historical Commission (NHC) – Anne Greene

Anne Greene was present and gave a summary of her background and reasons for applying. She was recommended by NHC member Nancy McBride. Ms. Greene's background does not include project management and/or contracts, but she is passionate about antiques and antique homes. Ms. Demong noted that the NHC is dealing with a complicated set of projects for the Jacobs farmhouse rehab and ADA updates. Ms. Allen added that Ms. Greene would need to recuse herself if there were any real estate conflicts as a board member, noting that Ms. McBride is also a realtor and has done the same. Ms. Allen asked the board about choosing an applicant as another candidate interviewed previously and both are well qualified for the one open At Large position. Mr. Rull asked about the status of alternate memberships for these types of committees. Mr. Morin noted that they are allowed to vote if they are filling out the quota at a board meeting. Per Town Counsel, it is legal to create alternate seats for this type of committee. The board is in favor of this idea, adding that Alternates participate in all discussions and attend meetings as they are able.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to create the position of alternate member on the NHC. Unanimously voted

Motion: made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Alan Prouty as an At Large member of the NHC for a term expiring 6/30/22. Unanimously voted

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Anne Greene as an Alternate member of the NHC for a term expiring 6/30/22. Unanimously voted

Application to Athletic Fields Committee – Jason Horwitz

Mr. Graham recused himself as he has had business dealings with Mr. Horwitz.

Mr. Horwitz gave a summary of his background and reasons for applying. He currently has 3 kids playing Town sports. Ms. Allen asked for his opinion on the adequacy of the Town's fields, as he travels with his son's soccer team and observes other town fields. He believes there is room for improvement but noted that most towns are in the same boat with regard to field demand.

In response to Ms. Demong's question, his kids have played and he has coached a wide range of the offered sports. He is also involved in youth activities besides sports. The board will make their decision after all of the applicants have been interviewed.

Application to Athletic Fields Committee – Michael Morris

Mr. Morris gave a history of his background and reasons for applying. He has worked in state government for 20 years. His kids have played all sports except football. He is interested in working with the state to try to procure some government subsidies for projects such as the Pine Street fields rehab. He and his wife are both coaches. Ms. Allen noted that the Town has received a community compact grant to do a study on the capping of the Pine Street field. This is required before any rehabilitation of the soccer fields can be done.

The board will make their decision after all of the applicants have been interviewed.

Application to Athletic Fields Committee – Caroline Corbin

Ms. Corbin gave a summary of her background and reasons for applying. Her family is active in many different sports. She is a former member of the Advisory Board and would now like to be involved in another committee. She is very interested in updating the restrooms at the Clipper Community Complex. She would like this project discussion to be revived as there is heavy use of this complex for events other than Town sports. Ms. Allen stated that the board will be discussing Town Meeting instructions to the BOS (of which this topic is one) at next week's meeting. With reference to the discussion of alternate committee seats for the NHC, Ms. Corbin offered to be an alternate on the AFC. Mr. Brown added that Ms. Corbin served with him on the Advisory Board and knows budgeting and finance. There are 3 great candidates, so this is easy! *Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Caroline Corbin as an Alternate member to the Athletic Fields Committee for a term ending 6/30/22. Unanimously voted*

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Jason Horwitz as an At Large member to the Athletic Fields Committee for a term ending 6/30/22. 4 voting yes, Mr. Graham abstained. Motion carried

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Michael Morris as an At Large member to the Athletic Fields Committee for a term ending 6/30/22. Unanimously voted

Appoint Building Inspector – 3-year term

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to appoint Tom Barry as the Building Inspector for the Town of Norwell for a 3-year term expiring 6/30/22. Unanimously voted

Application to Commission on Disabilities – Cheryl Reed

Ms. Reed was unable to attend this meeting and will be rescheduled on a future agenda.

8:15pm American Legion; Norwell Grange Discussion-building status report and next steps

Ms. Allen invited American Legion commander Peter Kulka and Legion members (from Norwell and other communities) who were present to participate in this discussion. She summarized the history of the building, and noted that the Preservation Restriction Agreement (PRA) reviewed and signed by the BOS and accepted by the Mass Historical Commission is a prerequisite for any sale to move forward. Health Agent Ben Margro was present to answer questions and added that the current state of the Grange building means that no occupancy permit can be issued.

Dr. Kulka thanked the board for considering this option. He gave a short history of the Legion and its connections to the Grange. With a permanent home, the Legion could expand their services and offer the use of the building to Legion members, veterans and community groups such as the Boy/Cub Scouts (the Legion is the official sponsor) and the Rotary Club. Scout leader Bob Scott was present to thank the Legion for their support of the scouting program.

The Legion assured the board that it is rich in donations and volunteers rather than cash, but are confident that donations will increase if the Legion is successful in purchasing the building. They plan to restore the building to the requirements listed in the PRA. The group plans to meet with the NHC in July to review the building and PRA requirements for the restoration.

Dr. Kulka stated multiple times that the Legion has no plans to operate with a liquor license on the premises as there will be Scouts in the building. Their hope is to offer the first floor space for public meetings. Per Dr. Kulka, charitable groups would be welcome to use the building for a donation rather than actual rent.

Dr. Kulka introduced general contractor and Legion member Mark Bonner, who will be in charge of the Grange rehab project. Mr. Bonner summarized his observations on the building and hopes for a completion date of 4-5 years.

Ms. Allen asked Dr. Kulka and Legion members to read the preservation restriction agreement carefully before making their final decision. She noted that the Mass. Architectural Access board allows rehabbed buildings to petition for special permits to modify access for ADA compliance. The Legion plans to have an executive board (composed of the organizations involved) with shared responsibility. In response to Mr. Rull's question, Dr. Kulka stated that donations to the project can be made by contacting Norwellpost192.org. Mr. Brown thinks this will be a great project and is happy that the Legion will have a permanent home in the Town. He thanked Legion members for addressing the liquor license issue, which eliminates the question of having a bar close to the high school. Questions were asked and answered about building plans and next steps. All expressed their support for this project and will look forward to updates from the group.

Discuss Possible letter of support for Hanover Mall's MEPA Application

Ms. Allen gave an update on the reasons for this letter. She had originally thought the board was being asked by the mall developer to provide a letter of support for the MassWorks grant. The MEPA application is related to infrastructure at the mall (water, sewer), so she recommended that the Board leave the decision about how to respond to the Water Commissioners. The board agreed.

SEIU Collective Bargaining Agreement – Ratification by BOS

Mr. Morin advocated that the board ratify his proposed collective bargaining agreement which has been in negotiations since March. It was ratified by the union last week and included updates to various conditions, including increases, longevity, vacation eligibility and language allowing merit promotion instead of seniority. There has been a lot of turnover in the union and departments have had difficulties recruiting employees. The agreement allows the Town more discretion when filling vacancies, promoting from within and giving fair, sustainable increases.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the MOA between the Town and the SEIU local 888, for the period 7/1/19 to 6/30/22. Unanimously voted

The board signed the agreement.

Upcoming Meetings

The board will meet next Wednesday as usual and meet every other weeknight July and August starting July 10th.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to adjourn at 8:53pm. Unanimously voted

Ellen H. Allen
Ellen Allen, Chair

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