

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting Minutes
7/24/19**

TOWN OF NORWELL
2019 AUG -8 AM 10:17
RECEIVED

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:33pm in the Osborn Room. She reminded all that the meeting is televised and recorded. All rose to recite the pledge of allegiance.

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

Citizen Comments

Steve Reagan was present to request a time on a future BOS meeting agenda to discuss the assisted living overlay district proposal, which is reduced in size since the initial concept of the Citizens Petition submitted for the May 2019 Town Meeting. This updated proposal does not include any residential property. The board suggested that he and the group proposing this plan share their ideas with other boards before discussing it at a BOS meeting. Ms. Allen noted that the BOS is not part of the formal Citizen Petition process, and stated that there is no date yet for future Town Meetings. Mr. Morin added that the confusion last year arose from the fact that this proposal was and is a Citizen's Petition, NOT a BOS Article. Mr. Graham suggested that Mr. Reagan connect with the Town Planner and Planning Board about this proposal prior to setting up a meeting date with the BOS.

BOS Reports and Announcements.

Jake Barrett has been working as an intern in the Town Administrator's office this summer. This is his last meeting before returning to school. His help has been much appreciated by all.

There will be an information meeting about the Senior Affordable Housing project at 40 River Street next Thursday, 8/1/19, at 2pm at First Parish Church.

Town Administrator's report

Mr. Morin thanked the Town's safety departments for their support and assistance over the very hot weekend. The cooling station at the COA was manned by volunteers to provide options for residents to stay comfortable. The CERT team did a great job – thanks again!

Police 5K Road Race Application – October 13, 2019

Police Chief Ted Ross was present to answer any questions about the 4th annual 5K Police Department road race. This annual event has raised several thousand dollars over the last few years, and the department has donated the proceeds to different charitable organizations such as Cops for Kids with Cancer, Norwell Veterans fund and the Norwell Police K9 Foundation. This year the proceeds will go to Cops for Kids with Cancer and Homes for our Troops. The course has changed; the race will start at 300 Washington Street and wind through the Hall Drive neighborhoods for about 45 minutes to an hour. To date, there have been no resident complaints. The race has corporate sponsors, and the usual proceeds are about 5K.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the Police 5K road race on 10/13/19 at 9am, subject to the safety conditions as listed on the race application.

Unanimously voted

Athletic Fields Committee-description/mission/term length

The board reviewed and discussed this mission statement draft. Some edits were made, and the final review and approval will be on the BOS agenda for the 8/7/19 meeting.

Update on MAPC grant

Ms. Allen informed the board that the Town applied for and received a second grant to pursue the MAPC's recommendations. The plan is to encourage robust community engagement, and to draft Articles for Town Meeting based on these recommendations. The community engagement activity involves a "team of champions" composed of a diverse group of 12 members from businesses, Town employees and residential backgrounds, who met last evening. The budget for this project is the grant of 40K from MAPC plus 10K from the Town. The goal is to have the Articles completed by January for review and ready for the May 2020 Town Meeting. The targeted areas are Queen Anne Corner and Accord Park, which would not affect High Street traffic.

Role of the Economic Development Committee (EDC)

Mr. Brown thanked the committee for their hard work on a thankless task over the years. Some valuable insights were made during the EDC projects. The changes that were planned in zoning and business growth needed a stronger co-partnering effort with the Planning Board instead of the years of unintentional disconnect on these issues. The BOS has made a commitment to change this dynamic by including this cooperative effort as a BOS FY20 Focus Area item. As the MAPC "team of champions" is now moving forward with very specific plans related to the topics addressed by the EDC, the role of this committee has become outdated. There were a number of economic development projects that failed as well as a poor response to the survey sent to local businesses. The EDC asked for direction and received funding from a Community Compact grant for further research. The results of that study were less than anticipated. Mr. Brown noted that the goal is to reduce bureaucracy, not add to it. The MAPC has resources and does this for a living, which is not realistic for a group of volunteers. The board will proceed with the MAPC project, disband this committee and reexamine in the future the need for a similar committee. Mr. Brown reiterated that, although logistically difficult, the Planning Board and BOS should commit to working together on a regular basis. It is time to disband the EDC with the grateful appreciation of the BOS.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, that the BOS disband the Economic Development Committee, with gratitude and many thanks for their hard work.

Unanimously voted

The board hopes to reemploy these committee members on a future Town project.

Review BOS FY20 Focus Areas

The board reviewed and discussed the edits to the draft from the last meeting, along with related topics, to finalize the document.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to adopt the BOS FY20 Focus Areas with edits as noted on the draft. Unanimously voted

The board will meet next on 8/7/19.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to adjourn at 8:36pm. Unanimously voted



Ellen Allen, Chair