

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Remote Open Session
8/19/20**

**TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK**

2020 SEP -8 AM 9: 27

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Present: Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Bruce Graham, Joe Rull, Peter Morin
Town Counsel Bob Galvin

Open Session

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Allen at 7:06pm. She announced that all votes will be roll call votes as the meeting participants are using remote access software. The meeting was recorded and the audio file will be available on the Town website. Ms. Allen noted that this meeting will be conducted pursuant to the Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Gen. L. c. 30A §20 et seq. and 940 CMR 29.01 et seq.

Approval of Agenda

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Alison Demong, to approve the agenda for August 19, 2020 as presented. Unanimously voted by roll call vote

BOS Reports

Ms. Allen reminded everyone to please complete the Open Space and Recreation survey. Please vote! There is a complete list of voting options and a link on the home page of the Town website. Residents can vote early at Town Hall or by mail or on election day as usual.

Ms. Allen invited Chief Simpson to share the letters received and sent by the Fire Department and Norwell Stop and Shop. He reported that Stop and Shop has gone above and beyond with their generous donations of food, snacks and bottled water over the last few years during blizzards, power outages and the current pandemic. In response to a thank you letter from the Fire Department, Stop and Shop store manager Steve DeLuca praised the hardworking members of the Fire Department for their service to the Town.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Morin announced the promotion of Dave Keane to Deputy Fire Chief of the Norwell Fire Department. Kudos to DC Keane for a well-earned promotion.

Discussion/Action Items

Police Chief Selection Process

Mr. Morin reported that the selection and appointment of the new Police Chief is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen. The Police Chief reports to the Town Administrator. Mr. Morin gave a brief overview of his recommended selection and hiring process. Chief Ted Ross will be retiring at the end of November/early December, and Mr. Morin hopes to select a replacement as close as possible to that date. This will be the 5th police chief search in which he has participated. The procedure is to establish a search committee and circulate an advertisement created by the Human Resources Director in a variety of media. The candidate assessment process and background checks will be administered by a consultant, who will identify the finalists and invite the search committee to interview these candidates. The BOS will then interview the candidates and make their selection. Mr. Morin has potential search committee members in mind, and will announce them at the next BOS open meeting.

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There are no internal candidates with strong qualifications, but any department personnel who are interested should be interviewed. He has had several conversations with Deputy Chief Brzuszek, who is an excellent candidate, but has stated that this is not the right time for her to take the job. However, she is more than willing to help with the transition. The search committee interview process will be confidential, but the BOS interviews will be public.

Change in Smoke Detector Fees

Chief Simpson congratulated new Deputy Fire Chief Dave Keane.

Chief Simpson would like to change the Town's smoke detector and other fees to be commensurate with those of nearby towns. He reviewed his proposed fee schedule with the board, giving reasons and background for the increases. The board commented on the fee schedule and a job well done by Chief Simpson.

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Joe Rull, to approve the revised fee schedule as proposed by Chief Simpson. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

The updated fee schedule will be posted on the Fire Department website.

Dissolve the Carleton Property Committee

Ms. Allen reported that, as the Carleton Committee has accomplished their mission and has no further responsibilities to the Town, they requested that the committee be dissolved. Ms.

Demong thanked the committee members for all of their hard work over the last two years.

She also addressed comments made at Town Meeting about the Community Housing Trust (CHT) proposal to set aside a parcel of this property for Affordable Housing. She noted the large amount of detail distributed and number of public meetings held to inform residents about this plan. In addition, the Carleton Committee heard every comment and complaint brought to their attention. The negative comments made at Town Meeting really diminished the work done by this committee, who was always transparent in their decision making process. The CHT proposal received a unanimous vote of support from the Carleton Committee.

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Alison Demong, that the Carleton Committee be dissolved, with the thanks of the Board of Selectmen. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Rockland Request for letter of support for MassWorks grant application

Rockland Assistant Town Administrator Jennifer Constable and AW Perry President Rich Beal joined the meeting to ask the BOS to consider providing a letter of support for Rockland's MassWorks grant application to address traffic issues on the Rockland side of Route 3 at Exit 14. Ms. Constable provided the details of the projects, collaborators, the nature of the grants and the towns that will be participating. She noted that Norwell is looking towards development opportunities in its industrial parks, specifically Accord Park, which was the area of interest for the recently initiated traffic study done in coordination with the MAPC and the Traffic Study Committee. She opined that there may be an opportunity for a regional project along Hingham St.

Ms. Constable gave the presentation over to Mr. Beal, who reviewed map and pictures of this project focus, noting the current and upcoming traffic congestion issues with this highway exit for both towns. He reviewed the scope of the grant application, noting that it is limited to dealing with the existing choke point for traffic on the Rockland side of this exit, but worded not to limit future projects.

Questions were asked and answered about the project; the application is due next week so there is a tight turnaround. Both Ms. Constable and Mr. Beal thanked the board for considering this request for support.

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Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of support for this project, and the possibility that support might jeopardize Norwell's chances for future grants. The letter could be placed in the hope for continuing grant support for the ongoing traffic work into Norwell further down Hingham Street. Ms. Constable added that the state encourages regional projects. All discussed the future mixed use project proposed for the neighboring land owned by AW Perry near this location, supported by a map from Mr. Beal. Mr. Graham would like to see master planning on a future agenda.

Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Bruce Graham, to allow Ms. Allen and Mr. Morin to draft a letter in support of the MassWorks grant application from the town of Rockland. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Town Meeting recap and vote to use signature stamp

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the use of the BOS signature stamps for the Warrant copies needed for the state election. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Fiscal Year 21 BOS and Town Administrator Focus Areas – review and finalize

The board discussed edits and additions to the final draft of this list, which will be posted on the BOS page of the Town website.

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Alison Demong, to approve the FY21 BOS Focus Areas. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Accept with regret Laurence Gogarty's resignation from Library Building Committee

Ms. Allen gave a brief update on this action and thanked Mr. Gogarty for all his help and willingness to provide further assistance if requested by the LBC.

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to accept, with regret, Laurence Gogarty's resignation from the Library Building Committee and appoint Ted Nichols in his stead. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

The board thanked Mr. Gogarty for generously volunteering his time to serve on this committee. The board thanked Mr. Nichols for volunteering to serve on this committee.

Town Technology Committee

There are currently 7 seats and 7 members. Mr. Graham would like to be an additional member, but an additional seat would require a Town Meeting vote. Ms. Allen opined that perhaps Mr. Graham could be Mr. Morin's designee, or attend the meetings and participate. Mr. Graham and Mr. Morin will decide what works best for them.

IT update and next steps

Mr. Morin reported that he had a productive meeting with the consultant that could convert the Town's email server to the icloud. This would be a good plan, which would have more of an ongoing subscription cost rather than periodic, costly hardware replacements and technology repair issues. He is looking forward to getting a quote and next steps.

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Mr. Graham opined that many of the accessibility issues would go away with this upgrade, and related several background stories about the current service situation to illustrate his point.

National Grid Easement for Wompatuck

Attorney Galvin has reviewed this easement contract which is ready to be signed by the board. The easement gives the Town the right to work on National Grid land when constructing the new parking lot and access to Wompatuck State Park. The vote is only to approve the use of the BOS signature stamps as needed on this document.

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Jason Brown, to sign or use signature stamps as relayed via email to the admin staff in the BOS office. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Committee vacancies and eliminations

The board reviewed and discussed the list of current committee openings and positions.

Motion; made by Alison Demong, seconded by Bruce Graham, to dissolve the Permanent Drainage Committee and the Overhead Wire Committee. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 8/5/20 Open Session Minutes

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the minutes for the 8/5/20 Executive Session and Open Meeting minutes. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Future Meeting Agendas

The board discussed future meeting agenda items. The board will continue to meet every other week for the foreseeable future. The next scheduled meeting will be 9/2/20.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Jason Brown, seconded by Alison Demong, to adjourn at 8:19pm. Unanimously voted by roll call vote.

Ellen H. Allen

Ellen Allen, Chair