

**Town of Norwell
Select Board
Open Meeting Minutes
6/22/22**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

2022 JUL -7 PM 3: 22

Present: Bruce Graham, Andy Reardon, Peter Smellie, Peter Morin

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimously voted.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion; made by Pete Smellie, seconded by Andy Reardon, to approve the 6-8-22

Open Meeting minutes. Unanimously voted

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Pete Smellie, to approve the 6-8-22 Executive Session minutes. Unanimously voted.

Town Administrator Reports

Mr. Morin reported on the Wildcat property court decision which ruled for the defendant (the Town). This ruling will be discussed at a future meeting in greater detail. The public should know that the disposition in favor of the Town was based on the merits of the case, not the standing argument. The decision is likely to be appealed, but the ruling is verification that the Town was correct in its interpretation of the statute and the process that should be followed.

Water Department Update

Water Superintendent Jason Federico and the Board of Water Commissioners were present to update the board on the upcoming PFAS filter installation and water plant upgrades.

The board reorganized at their earlier meeting as follows:

Chair: Steve Ivas

Vice Chair: Peter Dillon

Clerk: Fred St. Ours

Mr. St. Ours reported the board vote to move to Tier 2 water restrictions for the Town. Outside watering is restricted to even/odd day watering with lawn irrigation systems from 5pm to 9pm. Hand watering (hand-held hoses) is permitted daily from 5pm to 9pm. Per the board, there are good resources in the ground, but we are at the beginning of a dry summer. So far residents are in pretty good compliance with the water rules.

The board did a power point presentation about its proposed solution to the PFAS levels in the Town's water. Mr. Dillon recapped his prior presentation to the board, highlighting changes (naming specific products that contain PFAS) and the proposed solution going forward. The good news is that the Town is addressing this issue ahead of many other towns in the Commonwealth and the country. A copy of the two presentations will be available on the Water Department page of the Town's website.

Mr. Dillon noted that the MADEP (Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection) PFAS standard set last October is 20 parts per trillion as the maximum contaminant level. The recent EPA health advisories are now setting the PFAS standard much lower than the prior EPA standard of 70 parts per trillion. The new EPA standards released on June 15th included the health advisories for PFOA of .004 parts per trillion, for PFOS of .02 parts per trillion and for GenX of 10 parts per trillion. (See the presentation materials for further information.) This health advisory has been set 1000 times lower than can be measured. ANY trace should have public awareness. The state will tell towns what to do; the bottom line is to do something.

Mr. Federico updated the board on the treatment required for the South Street well and the treatment plant. The Town's water sources are currently blended because of the high concentrations. Sampling will continue and activated carbon is used to filter the water. A second vendor is presenting options to install the filters outside the building, which will save space and have a shorter lead time. Alternative

funding sources are being researched, with the goal of using the state revolving fund (grant application to be submitted in August) to start construction next summer. The awards are made on a ranking system. The Town qualifies for the \$5B pool for small communities. The \$4B federal funding awards will be based on need. There is no risk in applying and the state is ahead of everyone else with water sampling. Water suppliers are taking the brunt of the heat for these PFAS. The commissioners reminded all that these substances are still not harmful over a lifetime of consumption. Norwell water is a great product! Hopefully the project will begin over the winter.

In answer to Mr. Reardon's question about steps the "average person" can take to address this issue, the Water board asked all to keep informed. The amount of PFAS in the Town water supply is miniscule.

Mr. Graham complimented the board on their quick action in working on this resolution. Mr. Morin advised that the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trusts grant would save the Town over \$1M. Please ensure that the application is a quality product so that the Town receives the funding.

Recreation Commission Appointment – Patrick Kelly

Motion; made by Peter Smellie, seconded by Andy Reardon, to appoint Patrick Kelly to the Recreation Commission as an At Large member for a term expiring on 6-30-25. Unanimously voted

American Legion request re: St. Helen's property

Dr. Peter Kulka was present with boy scout patrol leader Kurt McVeigh. He updated the board on veteran activities during and since the pandemic. The legion is having a difficult time sourcing a permanent place to meet. They have partnered with the boy scout organization to serve the veterans in the community. He cited the reasons that will benefit both organizations and the Town if a permanent home is located; fundraisers, regular meetings, etc. They reach out to all veterans to offer assistance with both everyday tasks and larger events. Scholarships are offered through their programs. Dr. Kulka asked that the board consider donating one of smaller buildings if the Town purchases St. Helen's. Mr. McVeigh added that a permanent building would help the scout troop's organization of their activities.

Select Board Reports

- **Advisory Board Open Seat – Andy Reardon**

Mr. Reardon attended the Advisory Board Nominating Committee meeting last week. He announced the vacancy on the Advisory Board and invited residents to apply. All applications will be reviewed and meetings scheduled towards the beginning of August.

Future Meeting Agendas

The board updated the schedule. The next meeting will be held on 7-6-22.

Adjournment

Motion; made by Pete Smellie, seconded by Andy Reardon, to adjourn at 7:50pm. Unanimously voted.



Bruce W. Graham, Chair

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