

**Town of Norwell
Select Board Meeting
Open Session
6/14/23**

Present: Jason Brown, Bruce Graham, Brian Greenberg, Andy Reardon, Pete Smellie, Darleen Sullivan

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pete Smellie at 7:00pm.

Approval of Agenda

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimously voted

Approval of Minutes

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Bruce Graham, to approve the Executive and Open meeting minutes of 5/24/23. Unanimously voted

Select Board Reports

The COA hosted the memory café, which was welcoming and a good time.

Town Administrator's Report

Introduce Kim Roy as new Assistant Town Administrator

Ms. Sullivan introduced new hire Kim Roy, who joined the Town Hall staff on 6/5/23. Ms. Roy gave a short summary of her background and thanked the board for her warm welcome.

Citizen Comments - None

Community Preservation Committee (CPC) – Application for At Large seat

Jeff Hassett was present to give a summary of his background and reason for applying to serve on the CPC. The board had a short discussion about the role of the CPC and its application approval process, stressing the importance of considering ongoing maintenance costs.

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, seconded by Bruce Graham, to appoint Jeff Hassett to the Community Preservation Committee as an At Large member for a term expiring 6/30/26. Unanimously voted

7:30pm – Public Hearing: Amusement License Application – Inclusion Records, 340 Washington Street - Continued

The board continued the public hearing at 7:40pm.

Both owners were present to further discuss their application for an amusement license. Additional comments from Chief Kean stressed that this is not the right venue for this type of event. A reasonable level of safety is expected, which would not be possible in this building. Mr. Graham visited the store, which is small, noting that the means of egress opens inward. Further discussion included suggestions from Chief Kean for added safety features, such as another lighted exit sign and a wider means of egress (also noted by Mr. Reardon and Mr. Greenberg) and a fix for the steep basement stairs.

Mr. Brown would like to support allowing the license, contingent on correcting these issues.

The board voiced concerns over public events that took place at this venue before any license application was submitted. The applicants noted that while those events violated these conditions, they want to correct the issues, and asked the board to give them a list. The first step would be to set up a meeting with Chief Kean and Building Inspector Tom Barry to provide such a list. The fix for these issues may be cost prohibitive or not in compliance with the conditions of the lease.

A suggestion was made for the applicants to consider alternate venues for their events instead of trying to renovate the store. Further discussion included the pros and cons of this idea.

Motion; made by Andy Reardon, then amended by Mr. Reardon, seconded by Brian Greenberg, to continue the public hearing to July 12th at 7:30pm, at which time to determine whether or not the building conditions for the license are to the satisfaction of the board. Unanimously voted

Chief Kean noted that the building owner should probably be involved in this project as this would involve changes to his building. Next steps were agreed upon with the owners to review the terms of their lease, set up a meeting with Mr. Barry and Mr. Greenberg (who will prepare a list of issues to address). The board thanked them for coming in.

Fire Chief – Ambulance Rates

Chief Kean reviewed his power point presentation with the board to discuss ambulance rates in the Town. Chief Kean's presentation is on file in the Select Board office.

Mr. Brown suggested an automatic yearly increase of 3% or so without needing board approval except in unusual circumstances.

All reviewed the proposed new rates in an additional slide, which would make the Town very competitive with surrounding towns. The federal government raised the reimbursement rates in 2023, but Chief Kean did not know how often this occurs.

Discussion ensued about rate changes relative to government reimbursements. Per Chief Kean, the department's billing company is under contract for another year and has not changed/raised their rates since 2021.

Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Jason Brown, to accept Chief Kean's recommendation to increase the ambulance rates as proposed for the next fiscal year effective 7/1/23 and to index them by 1.03 at the beginning of each subsequent fiscal year. This will allow the chief to revisit this vote by coming before the Select Board to address any extenuating circumstances that would suggest moving in a different direction in a future fiscal year. Unanimously voted

Evan's Run Wrap Up and discussion

Chief Lee was present for this discussion and comments on suggestions for next year's race. First Parish member Betsy Gordon was also present.

Mr. Brown gave a short recap about the race and reason for this discussion. First Parish Norwell had concerns about the accessibility for their church service on the Sunday morning of the race. Prior to the race, Ms. Gordon coordinated with Sgt. Brian Resnick to ensure that all parishioners were able to negotiate the race traffic, blocked roads and parking spots to attend the service and participate in a vote to appoint their new minister. There were no medical issues and no complaints for either the police or fire

department. Ms. Gordon sent Chief Lee a lengthy letter thanking the police department for their excellent work.

Discussion focused on how residents are informed about upcoming events and road restrictions since Reverse 911 can only be used for emergency alerts. The Town is planning to switch to a GIS based notification system which can pinpoint and communicate about affected areas of the Town.

Mr. Brown would like better communication for residents who are not tech savvy. Per Chief Lee, the police department uses message boards to get the word out about future races.

Ms. Gordon would like more advance notice for races and would also like to suggest that the Town not allow races on Sundays (which is not feasible as most races are held on Sundays). The board noted that all race information is available in the Town Administrator's office usually several months before the event. She suggested notifying the church ahead of time. She also suggested exploring alternate routes that don't utilize the River/Dover/West Streets area.

Board members and both chiefs added that they meet with the race organizers far in advance. Chief Lee suggested that the race organizers contact the affected businesses and organizations about the impending event instead of asking the Town to do all the work. Per Assistant Highway Surveyor Shane Gokey, their department really does not participate, but only allows the use of their barricades. Further options were explored for different dates and different routes, as well as a proposed cost rate to cover the department involvement. Each race pays for its police and EMT/fire department details. The Town's standard race fee is waived for charity events.

Final Intermunicipal Recycling Agreement Extension – review and Chair Signature

Health Agent Ben Margro was present to give a summary for the 6th 5-year extension of this agreement, which now includes 19 towns. Highlights of this agreement include:

1. Spring and Fall hazardous materials removal for residents. The hope is to have a permanent hazardous materials depot in Hanover as opposed to a mobile unit that travels to the various towns. A grant has been submitted for this permanent depot. The cost to the Town would be \$1500 (population based contribution).
2. Ongoing work with state reps and senators to pass legislation, ex. mattress disposal for \$50 per piece.
3. The Town's reps to this group are the Health Agent and the Recycling Committee Chair Vicki Spillane.
4. Annual fees are paid out of the Health department/Recycling revolving fund.

The agreement was signed by Chair Pete Smellie.

Committee Reappointments and Current Vacancies

Mr. Brown read the list of re-appointees, asking board members for a "hold" if any had questions as the names were read; there were no questions or "holds".

Motion: made by Jason Brown, seconded by Brian Greenberg, to reappoint each board, committee and department member for the terms listed on the attached sheet.

Unanimously voted.

The list of reappointments is attached to these minutes.

Committee Reappointment formal policy discussion – meeting non-attendance

Mr. Greenberg summarized his draft policy for the board. He would like to encourage residents to apply for any committee that interests them, regardless of vacancy status. He is concerned that if people don't see a vacancy, they are discouraged from applying. He would also like the board to consider giving new applicants a chance to be a good contributor by not always reappointing a long-time committee member. He would like to change the culture so that everyone could have a chance to serve. This would not be a "no confidence" vote. The board discussed options to include those who want to serve the Town by volunteering for a committee seat, including expanding the number of seats on a committee. All discussed the pros and cons of these ideas, with Mr. Brown adding that these are board appointed positions. Most appointees do an excellent job. If the public doesn't like the appointing authority, then vote for someone else. There is an assumption of regular rollover on most of the boards.

Options to change the current procedure were discussed with relation to Mr. Greenberg's draft plan. For now, the board advised residents to apply for any committee of their choice. There is a list of current vacancies on the Select Board web page, as well as a fillable form application.

Mr. Greenberg will edit his draft for further board discussion at one of the July meetings.

Adjournment

*Motion; made by Bruce Graham, seconded by Brian Greenberg, to adjourn at 9:07pm.
Unanimously voted.*



Peter W. Smellie, Chair

Future Meeting Agendas/Dates; June 28th and July 12th, July 26th

2023 Committee Re-appointments

Y / N	First	Last	Committee/Board	Term	
	Thomas	Barry	ADA COORDINATOR	2024	
	Josh	Kimball	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	2026	
	Sarah	Baker	BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE	2026	
	Beth	Burke	BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE	2026	
	Ralph J.	Rivkind	BOARD OF APPEALS	2026	
	William	Lazzaro	BOARD OF APPEALS	2026	
	Patricia	Anderson	BOARD OF REGISTRARS	2024	
	John	Undzis	ON CALL LOCAL BUILDING INSPECTOR	2024	
	Gerald	O'Neill	ALT. BUILDING COMMISSIONER	2026	
	Patricia	Anderson	BURIAL AGENT	2024	
	Joseph	Lipowski	CABLE TV COMMITTEE	2026	
	Peter	Bloomfield	CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE	2026	
	James	Kelliher	COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES	2026	
	Kristin	Britton	COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES	2026	
	Peter	Bloomfield	COMPLETE STREETS	2026	
	Justin	Ivas	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	2026	
	Robert	Woodill	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	2026	
	Ralph	Rivkind	COUNCIL ON AGING	2026	
	Allison	Hughan	COUNCIL ON AGING	2026	
	Nick	Salvatoriello	CULTURAL COUNCIL	2025	
	Laurie	Detwiler	CUSHING MEMORIAL DIRECTORS	2026	
	Cliff	Prentiss	FENCE VIEWER	2024	
	Peter	Wilson	GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR	2024	
	Scott	Wilson	GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR	2024	
	Paul	Dickhaut	GAS & PLUMBING INSPECTOR	2024	
	Nancy	McBride	HISTORICAL COMMISSION	2026	
	Kenneth	Twigg	INSPECTOR OF WIRES	2024	
	Earl	Servant	INSPECTOR OF WIRES	2024	
	James	Fitzgerald	MOORING ADMINISTRATOR	2024	
	Robert	Egan	SEALER WEIGHTS & MEASURES	2024	
	David	Osborne	VETERAN'S AGENT	2024	
	David	Osborne	VETERAN'S GRAVE OFFICER	2024	
	Robert M.	Meagher	<i>Super Special Police Officer</i>	2024	

2023 Committee Re-appointments

	William	Lynch	<i>Super Special Police Officer</i>	2024	
	James	Duchini	<i>SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER</i>	2024	
	Brian	Kelley	<i>SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER</i>	2024	
	John	Collins	<i>SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER</i>	2024	
	William	Kenney	<i>SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER</i>	2024	
	Todd W.	McAnagh	<i>SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER</i>	2024	
	Josh	Kimball	<i>SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER</i>	2024	
	NO RESPONSE				
	Maryellen	Arapoff	COUNCIL ON AGING	2026	