

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 15 2014**

Ellen Allen opened the meeting and introduced Gregg McBride, David DeCoste, Tammie Garner and Town Administrator Jim Boudreau. Jason Brown was attending the ZBA hearing. *MOTION: David DeCoste moved the Board approve the agenda as amended to postpone an interview and add Community Engagement under new business. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 13, 2013 and February 27, 2013

MOTION: David DeCoste moved to approve the minutes for February 20, 2013 and February 27, 2013. Seconded and voted 3-0-2. Tammie Garner was not on Board at the time and abstained.

7:35 Timothy Simpson – North River Commission Applicant – Timothy Simpson briefed the Board of Selectmen on why he is interested in serving on the North River Commission and what he could bring the Commission. He stated that he has lived in town for 22 years and has an interest because he lives on the river. *MOTION: David DeCoste move to appoint Timothy Simpson to the North River Commission to a Term Expiring June 30, 2016. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

7:45 Economic Development Committee Update – Present: Chairman Richard Merritt and Michael Tobin. Patrick Campbell joined the meeting after the introductions. Mr. Merritt handed out minutes for the Committee from their meeting of October 23, 2013. The Committee was disappointed that the Town did not approve the zoning changes at the Fall 2013 Town Meeting. Mr. Merritt made the following points:

- Capital improvements and other things could have been funded by the revenue from the proposed changes.
- Opportunity to provide revenue growth similar to the 80's with little or no impact on the residents.
- Would almost duplicate what the Town brings in under 2 ½. Original commercial development contributed greatly to the Town's growth without impacting the residential tax rate.
- Other Towns have not established buffer zones or such but are maximizing their business zones. For example, Plymouth is allowing 90 feet.
- Concerned that our commercial tax break will shrink, not increase, moving the impact on to residential.

Some members of the committee may not continue. In any case, the committee would like direction from the BOS. Mrs. Allen agreed that people seemed afraid of the stated impacts on traffic, water, etc. Reasonable rebuttals were not accepted. Mr. Merritt opined that the proposal was hurt by the Planning Board not supporting the Article. Mrs. Allen then asked about focusing on Accord Park since it is not as close to neighborhoods. Committee was excited about Accord as it is the older development area and has some tired buildings. For example, Sears building has been empty for 5 or so years and BMW is moving out. Mr. Campbell suggested that a future process needs to bring the likely opponents to the table earlier. Key process point is if we are going to do this again we need to be more inclusive. Need to start with the Planning Board and develop a consensus proposal which it can support. The BOS suggested that they look at

Accord and Pond Street. Mrs. Garner pointed out that a small success there could lead to success in other places.

Mr. Boudreau pointed out that there are many changes coming to the Pond Street/Queen Anne's corridor. Need to look at that area and make some decisions. Also need to look at our current zoning to update them to reflect present day needs. At a future meeting, the BOS will discuss the role of the committee and the make-up of the committee going forward.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Personal Leave – Jim presented the Board a request for personal leave from Meredith Schmid. The terms of the SEIU contract allow for unpaid leave with the approval of the Department Head(s) and the Board of Selectmen. Mr. McBride commended Meredith for her dedicated work in the office while working to complete her degree. *MOTION: David DeCoste to approve a personal leave for Meredith Schmid from February 25, 2014 to May 15, 2014. Seconded by Mr. McBride and unanimously voted.*

Discussion of Committee Recruitment – Mrs. Allen referred the Board to the list of committee vacancies. Some of them, such as Capital Budget with 3 vacancies, are in need of members since their busy season to get ready for Town Meeting starts soon. Mr. McBride suggested that the Board focus on Committees that have an immediate need. Committees such as Water Supply Study Committee do not need members as they are not currently active. PBMC, Library/Town Hall, Cable TV, Capital and Energy Committee should be priorities. Mr. DeCoste said that the Energy Committee were reviewing their charter and may have some suggestions to change their charge to make the Committee more appealing.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Energy Committee and EDC discussion are tentatively scheduled for 1/22/14 and the Budget for 1/29/14.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT – *Motion was made to adjourn. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Contracts, Police Chief and Fire Chief

MOTION: David DeCoste moved the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel Contracts, and contracts for the Police Chief and Fire Chief and not return to open session. Seconded and unanimously voted.

Chairman Ellen Allen explained that to discuss this in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining or litigating position. Ellen Allen polled the Board. Gregg McBride voted yes, David DeCoste voted yes, Tammie Garner voted yes and Ellen Allen voted yes.



Board of Selectmen