

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2015**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

2015 AUG 20 AM 9:10

RECEIVED

Chair Gregg McBride opened the meeting and introduced Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin. Jason Brown was unable to attend the meeting. *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved the Board approve the agenda amended as written. Seconded by Peter Smellie and unanimously voted.*

3. REPORTS

a) Citizen Comments – None

b) Selectmen's Report and Announcements

Mr. Smellie spoke about his issues with the Pathways project on Forest Street.

c) Town Administrator's Report

Ms. Allen and Mr. Morin met with Dept. of Energy to take next steps with Guardian Energy Management (consultant), who would assist in completing the Green Community application. Mr. Morin subsequently met with Seth Pickering, SEMA coordinator for Green Communities. Mr. Morin answered questions about the grant, the consultant and the application process. Mr. Morin also gave a summary of Gov. Baker's initiative called the Commonwealth Compact Community Development. It is a "No lose, no cost, best practice" initiative. In exchange for participation in this program the community receives technical assistance in Best Practice implementation and extra points towards certain grant applications as well as eligibility for grants awarded to Compact Communities. Mr. Morin will do a presentation on proposed Best Practices at the next BOS meeting.

Chief Reardon stated that the debris removal will be done by tomorrow at the Mt. Blue conservation site.

Jeffrey Roos of Mass Medi Spa will attend the 7/29 BOS meeting to request a letter of support from the board as well as giving an update.

5. Licenses and Permits- liquor license for Cocktails, LLC, serving only, wine and malt, on the following dates: July 24, 25, 26, 31, 2015; August 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 2015, from 7pm -10pm at the Company Theater at 30 Accord Park Drive.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve several days liquor license for Cocktails LLC, for wines and malts, serving only. Unanimous approval

Road opening request by Village Euro Motors - to allow for truck unloading on 7/20/15. Approval will be contingent on Highway Dept., Police Dept., Water Dept. and Tree and Grounds Dept. conditions.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve road opening permit at 59 Pond Street to allow for truck unloading, subject to approval of named departments. Unanimously voted

4b. Jonathan Grabowski – Cable TV

Jon Grabowski of Marshfield Community Television (MCTV) was invited to the board meeting to talk further about the relationship of Norwell and Marshfield for cable TV. Mr. Grabowski gave a presentation, including his background, and a summary of Marshfield's cable TV program.

Mr. Grabowski stated that, per PEG license agreements, local companies (access corporations) get a percentage of the cable revenue in each town. Sometimes multiple towns club together to form a larger organization for a local cable partnership. MCTV would bring Norwell into the MCTV family. Current MCTV staff would help to get this established. Mr. Grabowski led a discussion about outreach from working with governments, schools and nonprofits, and combining resources to benefit both towns. He asked the board two questions:

What does the BOS envision for Norwell as far as cable and how would the board envision a partner contract?

Mr. McBride gave a summary of Norwell's cable experience over the last 20 years. There is concern about the large amount of PEG money sitting idle, which would not help negotiations with the cable companies in the next year. The board is still undecided about whether to proceed with a facility in Norwell or join with Marshfield and use their facility. NOTE: Only residents from Marshfield may use that studio.

The PEG fund is about \$800K, which could provide a good studio. Outreach is a most important part of partnering with this cable organization, and is equal to School Department buy-in of the program. MCTV was fully involved in subsidizing and partnering with the Marshfield telecommunications program. Mr. Grabowski gave a summary of programs in other South Shore towns. Discussion ensued about studio locations. MCTV has a 10 year lease with the Marshfield schools (cable access co.). It would be best to set up a separate operation in Norwell.

Next Steps:

Revitalize the cable committee, and with it, hopefully local programs. Mr. McBride would like to work with MCTV to get something happening. Ms. Allen would like to task the Cable TV committee with pursuing this goal.

Mr. McBride asked for volunteers to join this committee.

4a. T. Andrew Reardon – Cable TV Committee application.

Chief Reardon gave an overview of his reasons for interest in this committee.

Motion: Made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Mr. Reardon to the Cable TV Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2018. Unanimously voted

Ms. Allen requested that the committee think about content as well as location.

Ms. Demong mentioned George Gray as a potential member.

4c. Economic Development Committee, Membership and Mission

Rick Merritt and Pat Campbell gave an overview of the current state of and direction for this committee, plus a possible expansion of the committee. Nonresidential taxes would be very beneficial to the town, and new revenues are needed to do this. Mr. Merritt handed out a chart with the proposed regulations that failed to pass at Town Meeting. A "tiny bite" would have no visible impact – so whatever is done should be meaningful in helping to get some tax relief as well as progress towards the goal. Redevelopment is the real key to economic development in Norwell.

The mission of the EDC was discussed with last BOS. Accord Park and Queen Anne Corner would be places to start. Mr. Morin has a great deal of experience with this and will be a valuable resource. Better linkage with the Planning Board will help as well. Garnering support before Town Meeting is key to a successful outcome. Public meetings with comments invited and better communication about the need for new revenue will help as well. The School Department needs to buy into this concept as it will directly benefit the schools, whose budget grows faster than the tax levy. Residential development isn't always the answer, as new homes cost the town money in schools and services.

The EDC is considering expansion of the committee from 5-7 members. They recently lost two key members; if it is expanded the new members should be very supportive of the committee's goals.

Natalie DiCecca would be a good committee member. She lives on High St. and is willing to join the committee. Discussion ensued about the expansion of the committee, with the hope that new members will support the mission.

Motion: Made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to task the committee with focusing their efforts on Queen Anne Corner and Accord Park. Unanimously voted

The committee is currently at seven members.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Alison Demong (?), to appoint Natalie DiCecca to the EDC for a term expiring June 30, 2018. Unanimously voted

4d. Cemetery Committee-Stetson Shrine Lane

Lynn Rose, Dick Cardigan, Bill Malloy - members of this committee.

The vandalism issue at the new Stetson cemetery was discussed. All incidents have been reported to the Police Department, who stated that support would be provided. There is a great deal of worry for future plants and monuments.

Installation of an entrance gate was discussed at length. Mr. McBride concurred that a gate is definitely needed, which will help with cars but not pedestrians. Increased police patrols have been requested, but neighbors have noticed more cars recently. There has been a greater police presence in the last week or so. The cemetery has the potential to be a source of revenue for the town, so these issues need to be addressed. Night vision camera systems could be put in place for about \$2000, and connected to the Police Department or perhaps the committee Chair's residence. Discussion ensued about methods to deter further vandalism. The number 1 priority is a gate and signage to indicate that the property is a cemetery. Bids have been solicited for wrought iron gates, with amounts ranging from \$18-45K. Stronger police presence is needed! The committee will seek input from Chief Ross. Chief Reardon invited the committee to the Fire Station to get more information on security options. There are funds available to cover the gate and cameras, etc.

Mr. McBride asked how the rules and regulations are coming. The committee met with Peter Morin for an update and planning today. They would like to bring in a consultant to assist with legally correct procedures in accordance with state laws and pricing, and perpetual care. The cost would be under \$20K for the consultant. The board stated that perhaps an article on the front page of the Mariner to publicize the vandalism issue would be very helpful.

4e. Mary Cole – committee applicant

Ms. Cole was invited by Mr. Smellie to apply for a board position. Ms. Cole gave an overview of her concerns and committee preferences.

Mr. Morin will invite Ms. Cole to the internal website committee meeting, which will benefit greatly from having an outsider point of view.

Board of Registrars was discussed, and Ms. Allen stated that the Democratic Committee needs to be involved with this appointment, and she will ask Lynda Allen to contact Kevin Jones to formalize the Board of Registrars appointment. The board thanked Ms. Cole for volunteering.

4f. Recreation Committee Resignation

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to accept with regret the resignation of Virginia Maree from the Recreation Committee. Unanimously voted

A certificate of thanks for her years of service will be made by the BOS office.

4g. FY2016 Focus Areas

Mr. McBride took Ms. Allen's list of items and did further edits to include all current issues.

Ms. Demong would like to add some type of program to address Lyme disease education in Norwell under Communication Issues. The topic should be its own action item. Lyme disease is an epidemic in the town. There is no state funding for awareness. Public outreach would be important, as well as lobbying for the state. The BOH was contacted about awareness/public outreach. Ms. Allen stated that there are two bills in the house for funding to deal with this

problem. There is a bill to abolish the Sunday hunting ban. Dave DeCoste said that he would pursue this issue. Senator Bob Hedlund should also be contacted. The program should reach out to other communities to raise awareness and help deal with this problem via lobbies. Perhaps help would be available at the County level, and Ms. Allen will look into this. Cohasset is having a meeting with Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) on this topic. This would definitely be the BOH's area of focus. List this topic as a separate item to explore a tick education program. Potential contacts and government levels of funding for such a program were discussed.

Next Steps: craft a letter to representatives supporting the two bills, and allowing hunting in Wompatuck Park as well as on Sundays. Ms. Allen will also explore options through MMA. Mr. McBride will add this to the Focus list.


6. Approval of Minutes

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the BOS meeting minutes of the June 24, 2015 and the July 1, 2015 Open Meetings. Unanimous approval

7. Correspondence/Announcements: Town residents have probably noticed drainage work on Route 123, therefore traffic disruptions will occur. Please call the Highway Dept. if there are problems.

8. Adjournment

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn. Unanimously voted



Board of Selectmen