

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
October 7, 2015**

Gregg McBride opened the meeting and introduced Jason Brown, Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin. *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved the Board exit Executive Session and enter into Open Session. The board was polled by Chair Gregg McBride; Ellen Allen voting yes, Jason Brown voting yes, Alison Demong voting yes, Peter Smellie voting yes and Gregg McBride voting yes.*

*Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimously voted*

**3. Reports**

**a) Citizen Comments - None**

**b) Selectmen's Reports –**

Gregg McBride mentioned that Alison Demong received an award for her outstanding service on the Community Preservation Committee. The ceremony was held at the State House, and Ms. Demong was one of ten recipients presented with the Bob Kuehn award. The honorees were selected from nominees representing CPA communities across the state. Ms. Demong served on the CPC for ten years, both as an At Large member and Chair of the committee.

**c) Town Administrator's Report -**

The Town prevailed in a case with the Police Union regarding the issue of overtime.

**4. Discussion/Action Items (some taken out of agenda order)**

**a) Cultural Council Appointments-**

*Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie; to appoint Marilynn Raineri to the Cultural Council for a term expiring June 30, 2018. Unanimously voted*

**f) Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie; to appoint Elaine Garvey to the Cultural Council for a term expiring June 30, 2018. Unanimously voted**

**g) Library Town Hall Study Committee Update – members Frank White, Jeanne Ivas, Jamie Crystal Lowry, Jill O'Loughlin.**

The committee updated the BOS as follows: the library building program has hired a consultant, and they are working on the final draft for the plan, which will cost under \$20,000. The proposed building will have an area of under 20,000 (vs. 8500 sq. ft. at the current Library). There will be more meeting rooms, conference rooms, study rooms, a teen area, storage space, additional shelving, a larger public access computer area with 12 computers. The plan is looking at current and projected needs over the next 20 years. Dave Sutton's survey audit has been completed, and the total cost of ownership will be forthcoming. The committee will put together a set of criteria and make some decisions, and have identified categories for the town demographics. The criteria will be weighted in order to determine the end result recommendation.

A second round of analyses has been completed for the possible locations – 4 remaining spots. These will be narrowed down to two or one by the next meeting. The deadline for the library grant will drive the decision making timeline. The BOS would like to take the Town Hall option off the table. The timing for the triangle near First Parish Church might be a non-starter as well. State funding for the new library was discussed; a grant award would fund up to 50% of eligible costs, with a potential bond for the rest. A shared building has more issues with qualification of costs. A standalone library would govern the use of room types, whereas shared building use could be problematic. Mr. Brown echoed Ms. Allen's point about the triangle of land on West Street; the ownership issue could be a deal breaker. Mr. White gave the

history of ownership issues with the old police station, and stated that the triangle may have the same indeterminate ownership status. Discussion ensued about the timing with the land ownership question and the library grant award. Ms. Crystal-Lowry asked for a formal BOS vote to take this option off the list. Mr. White would like to have the land ownership clarified whether the decision is made to use the land or not. Mr. McBride reaffirmed that the timeframe for this location would not work, and cited fostering good will in the Town by removing this location from consideration. The Sparrell campus might be the best location choice.

*Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to take the Town Hall location out of the decision process. Unanimously voted*

*Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to take the triangle of land at West Street and Dover Street off the list of potential locations. Unanimously voted*

Ms. Demong would like to keep the location on the radar for a future potential project. The last meeting point is the final phase to prepare for Town Meeting. The committee will start to work with the PBMC after Next Steps as presented tonight are completed. The official PBMC rep to the Library Study Committee is Bob Molla, who will be a voting member of this committee.

#### **c) Permanent Building and Maintenance Committee Update**

Laurence Gogarty, PBMC chair, attended this meeting to answer any questions regarding current projects. New Police Station update; the committee thought there was a balance of \$12,000, but the Town Accountant confirmed the amount of \$64,000 remaining in the budget. Mr. Morin stated that there have been several Articles approved at Town Meetings related to the construction of the police station. There is both bond money and Article money for this project, and the wording of some Articles allow some flexibility for spending (depending on the wording). Thorough review of all the Articles and spending yielded the \$64,000 figure. Mr. Morin complimented Mr. Gogarty's careful stewardship of the funds and spending for this huge project. The money will be used for a fence at the rear of the property as well as modest landscaping, perhaps as soon as this Fall. There is no reason not to move forward with the landscaping right away. The police station is fully furnished, on time and under budget.

Other activities: the committee is working with Rosemary O'Connor on some small things at the COA. Mr. McBride stated that the Library planning will begin to take more time for this committee as plans firm up. Mr. Gogarty passed around a copy of the PBMC charter for the BOS to review, with a highlighted area; "Section 3 of the committee's charge, ...it shall review the status of all the town-owned buildings, etc." This part of the charter needs to be updated as a Facilities Manager has been hired by the Town, and perhaps this section could be modified at the next Town Meeting. The board thanked Mr. Gogarty again for his excellent work on the project.

#### **d) Athletic Fields Committee Update**

Rich Webber, Chair, gave a summary of the Clipper Community Complex (CCC), which is one year old. Key items discussed were the Town's investment of \$3million for this work, the results of that investment; and the fact that it is a current hub of activity on the weekends at the High School – in short, it is a thriving community location.

The AFC has also focused on the task of improving the quality of existing fields, including resting the fields on a rotating basis (which has greatly benefitted the heavily used fields). The Elementary School fields are still problematic due to recess use. The AFC estimated that there is three times as much field use owing to the increased capacity created by the CCC. State athletic meets have been held there and the facility won an award. The CCC has been very well received by users. A replacement fund has been set up with \$44,000 contributed to date, but fundraising is behind schedule. As a result, school athletic fees will be increased by 33%, and there will be a 20% increase for private use. Ms. Allen would like to revisit the proposed fees for use of Town Fields. There needs to be a rework of the fees charged to Norwell youth groups, and the committee will work with Mr. Morin to correct this issue. He will sit down with George Grey, Recreation Director, and Ms. Demong to structure an agreement that clearly defines the

specific fee structure for youth groups in the town. Ms. Allen asked if any application was going to the CPC this time. Per Mr. Webber, the more pressing need now is for softball and baseball fields. They are looking at two potential sites, but even if the sites are possibilities, they probably wouldn't be ready until 2019. Youth softball asked for AFC support for a CPC application. Mr. Grey, Recreation Director, stated that the softball contingency has sought endorsements for their application to the CPC, citing that there is a pressing need for softball usage. Ms. Demong reminded all that a softball field was included in the \$3 million project (CCC), which makes the request for additional funding troubling. Mr. Grey stated that this seems to be a school related issue so he will let them speak. However, the demand or need for an improved softball facility is still there. Ms. Allen commented that it is important that the request to the CPC come through the AFC, who will be an active participant for this application.

Mr. Morin stated that Mr. Grey performed about \$1000 worth of much needed repairs to Gaffield Park. Mr. Morin will also work with Mr. Grey to put together a draft for upgrading the Reynolds playground as well as Gaffield Park, with perhaps a CPA application next year. Both locations need a good amount of attention. Any renovation should include resurfacing and ADA compliance. Mr. Grey gave the history of the Reynolds playground, which was constructed through a mostly community based effort.

**e) Tick Prevention Discussion/Update**

Ms. Demong gave a summary of the Tick Prevention Discussion; the tick expert from Cape Cod came for the seminar, which about 50 people attended. A Lyme disease specialist will hopefully be invited to come speak in the spring. Mr. McBride mentioned that this type of program would be perfect for the local cable channel! Hopefully more about this topic in the future.

**g) Library/Town Hall Study Committee Appointment**

*Motion: made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to appoint Scott Brodsky to the Library Town Hall Study Committee for its duration. Unanimously voted*

**h) Personnel Board Resignation**

*Motion: made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to accept the resignation of Jane Stout from the Personnel Board, in order to allow her to become a member of the Advisory Board. Seconded and unanimously voted*

**i) Website Discussion**

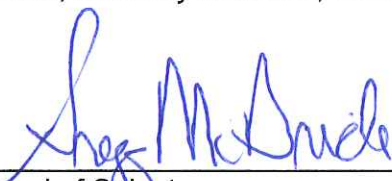
Mr. Morin will forward the screen shots to the board in order to decide the direction for the website designer. He will put this on the agenda with better information for the next meeting. The hope is to introduce some new features around the New Year.

**Next meeting**

Discussion topics for the next BOS meeting include; Senior tax relief, Barbara Childs for Senior Tax work-off structure, Free cash, Library Town Hall Study Committee update, Paul Foulsham – Meadow Farm update as well as intersection projects.

**8. Adjournment**

*Motion; made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Mr. Smellie, to adjourn. Unanimously voted*

  
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Board of Selectmen

