

Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2015

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK

2015 NOV 23 AM 8: 38

RECEIVED

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 agenda as written. Seconded by Peter Smellie and unanimously voted.*

REPORTS

Citizen Comments - None

Selectmen's Reports - None

Town Administrator's Report – Mr. Morin received a communication from Kearsage Energy, solar power company, who is offering the Town a first option to purchase energy credits. He will be meeting with them at 1pm tomorrow afternoon if any BOS members are interested in attending. Ms. Allen asked if the Town has used all of the metering credits from the school. Mr. Morin will check into the purchase of credits from a direct source instead of acquiring extras from the school. The Green Community application was submitted last Thursday, and all looks good! Once the application is approved, permitting shouldn't be difficult. Mr. Morin has created a list of open items that he is working on, and Mr. McBride would like to have the BOS benefit from a discussion of the list, with a goal to set priorities. The RFP for the Community Housing Trust project at 40 River Street is complete and ready to be sent out.

Cultural council Applicant

Christine Hudanich - Cultural Council applicant, gave her background and reasons for applying. *Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Christine Hudanich to the Cultural Council for a three year term expiring June 30, 2018. Unanimously voted.*

d) Accept Capital budget Committee resignation – Tim Greene

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to accept the resignation of Timothy Greene from the Capital Budget Committee. Unanimously voted

Mr. Greene resigned from the committee in order to be eligible to serve on the Advisory Board.

e) Capital Budget Committee applicant

Skip Joseph has been the rep from the Advisory Board to this committee.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Skip Joseph to the Capital Budget Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2017. Unanimously voted

It was noted that the roster of the Capital Budget Committee is out of date. It will be updated to determine if there are any additional openings on the committee.

Ms. Allen reminded all that the half marathon is taking place on Sunday, November 1st. Please be aware of the altered traffic patterns during the race.

Christine Hudanich gave a brief overview of the Scholastic Arts Society.

c) Legislative Update from State Rep. David DeCoste

Mr. DeCoste gave a summary of the status of proposed updates to the Open Meeting Law. An update is needed but this is a dead topic for now. Mr. McBride stated that if this topic resurfaces, the Legislature should try to amend it to help keep municipal costs down without creating undue burdens.

Mr. DeCoste is trying to expedite the MA Historical Commission's approval on the Norwell house deed restriction.

The State Medical Examiner is lagging in determining causes of death, which causes delays in the disposition of life insurance proceeds. The Legislature is trying to speed up the process. The Supplemental budget passed, with a pending appropriation for the CPA state allocation – it was agreed to designate up to \$10 million over and above the initial allocation if the year comes in on budget. He also thanked Peter Morin for Friday morning "office hours" locations at the COA and Town Hall.

Mr. DeCoste also mentioned work on 40B issues. The board raised questions regarding the proposed AH count methods, and Mr. DeCoste will research answers and pass them along to the board. Mr. McBride asked if any discussions took place around "one size fits all". Mr. DeCoste stated that opposition to 40B is more environmental than any other, as it needs a sewer, not septic.

He also gave updates on several other topics, such as the disposition of the Hanover fireworks plant, which is federally funded and has insurance proceeds. Ms. Demong asked about Lyme disease coordinators being allocated for each county; Mr. DeCoste will check to see if there is any news. \$11 million is being spent on mosquito control, and none on tick control at the state level. There is a state-declared Lyme disease epidemic in MA. The Legislature is still working on the update of the deer hunting bill. OPEB is not on the Governor's radar screen this year, and Mr. DeCoste will forward the briefing to Ms. Allen. Problems with pension systems have taken a back seat to the other state issues such as the MBTA. Ms. Allen asked Mr. DeCoste to let the BOS know if the issue does come back to life. Formal actuarial accounting for many state areas is needed.

Mr. DeCoste gave a certificate to Ms. Demong on behalf of the House of Representatives in recognition of her years of work on the CPC in the Town. The BOS also formally thanked her on behalf of the Town with a framed certificate. Ms. Demong thanked all volunteers for the town, who don't get a formal thank you for all their donated time and efforts!

Library Town Hall study committee update

All members of the committee were present
Frank White gave an update of the targeted topics:

Jeanne Ivas stated that the Library Trustees voted to accept the building program, which is the first step towards a new building. 64 South St. was their preferred site for the building project in a unanimous vote. The new proposed site is behind the current library.

The committee gave a summary of the criteria used to measure potential sites. The committee voted with a preference of 5-1 for the location at South St. Mr. McBride asked how the facilities audit might change the choice, but the committee doesn't have that information yet.

The committee's motion to conduct a survey by December 31st ended in a 3-3 tie.

Ms. Allen asked them to elaborate about a proposed library on the Sparrell campus. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of using this site.

Ms. Allen told the committee that they need to have good answers to potential questions and also need to hold hearings to answer people's questions about the sites. Mr. Brown stated that if an independent library building is considered, he would like to see Town Hall and the School Administration combined in one building, Sparrell for example, thereby utilizing available space. This concept would use current Town resources instead of building a new space and leaving a

current town-owned building partially used. Mr. McBride asked about renderings of buildings on the proposed sites; what would they present at hearings?

There is \$23,000 left in the budget to come up with a rendering for the South St. location. The project must have an OPM (project manager) before doing a feasibility study. More discussion ensued about site and use of an existing building. It will still be a burden on the taxpayers no matter what is built. The current library structure will be reviewed to see if it can be renovated. Per Mr. McBride, it might be what the Town can afford. The project was discussed further, with the BOS stressing the need to make a decision.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to move forward with 64 South Street as the site for a new library. Unanimously voted

Next steps: the committee will look at two options: add on and build a new facility. They will also research the inclusion of Communications space in the new library; TV studio, AV equipment, etc.

Motion to adjourn: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn at 9:25pm. Unanimously voted



Board of Selectmen

