

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2015**

TOWN OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK
2015 DEC -3 AM 8:14
RECEIVED

Mr. 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

a. Citizen Comments - None

b. Selectmen's Reports and Announcements - The RFP for the 40 River Street Affordable Housing project was sent out today and is now in the Central Register. Kudos to Peter Morin for his hard work on the RFP.

The 4th annual Veteran's Day ceremony will be held on November 11th, Veteran's Day, on the Town Common. Dottie Dixon will speak. The ceremony is at 11am. There is no rain date.

c. Town Administrator's Report – The Community Compact proposal has been accepted and sent on to the Lt. Governor for approval. She will come to Norwell for the ceremony.

Margaret O'Brien has passed away. She was the first woman selectman in Norwell.

Discussion/Action Items

a) Lynne Rose - Cemetery Committee, New Cemetery Rates

Ms. Rose gave an overview of reasons for the price increases. The new cemetery will have one of the highest plot costs on the South Shore. Actual burial costs have been taken into account with these new prices. She asked for the BOS opinion. Mr. McBride talked about the comparison to other towns, stating that Norwell's plot cost used to be one of the lowest. The key factor in the increase is the spending for the new cemetery, which is on historic land in a lovely setting. Ms. Rose would like to open it up to residents and non-residents. There is currently a waiting list for the Washington street cemetery. Most of the increase is due to Town administration and maintenance costs, with the new cemetery taking more of the Town's manpower to maintain in addition to the old cemetery. Mr. McBride asked for questions from the board. Ms. Demong asked for explanation of the costs: most of the fee goes to the Town, who will take care of the plot in perpetuity. Ms. Allen asked about allowing non-residents: won't it use up the cemetery faster? Per Ms. Rose, it will be about 20-25 years before a new phase of the cemetery is needed. She has had many calls from non-residents, and states that there is plenty of capacity for all. Per Ms. Allen, the price list will verify resident vs. non-resident status, as described in the bylaws. Fees only need to be approved by BOS.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to approve and adopt the cemetery price list as revised on September 15, 2015, with the provision for residents and non-residents (must have lived in Norwell for 10 years), effective upon the opening of Stetson Meadows Cemetery. Unanimously voted

b) Kearsarge Energy – Andrew Bernstein – Solar Credit Discussion

Mr. Bernstein gave an overview on purchasing net metered energy credits. The company has experience in all types of solar projects, having worked in several towns and with all the major utilities. Mr. Bernstein gave a summary of available projects with net metered credits. (NGRID SEMA)

There is no risk to the Town for purchasing these. Per Mr. Bernstein, these are guaranteed savings – “found money” coming back to the Town. Mr. Brown stated that Norwell has applied for Green Community status, and asked if this would affect the net metering, i.e., does it count towards reducing energy costs. Answer - no. It's the usage that is monitored. Per Mr. Morin, it doesn't count because the project would be a solar canopy over an office park, not on a Town building. The pros and cons of the purchase were discussed at length, with illustrations of purchase prices and cost savings. The Town could purchase the metering credits without issuing an RFP. Ms. Demong confirmed that the town is being offered both the credits from the Rehoboth project and the office canopy project, projected for the second quarter of next year. The BOS can vote, and Kearsarge will give them a net meter proposal. The only cost would be for the time charged by Town Counsel to review the proposal. Mr. McBride asked Mr. Bernstein to give Mr. Morin a dummy proposal ASAP. The Town would also get personal property tax revenue on equipment

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to authorize Peter Morin to enter into negotiations for an agreement with Kearsarge Energy for net metering credits purchase. Unanimously voted

c) Verizon – Request to add to Pine Street Cell Tower

Mr. Morin has not heard back from Verizon. He believes this is an enhancement to add additional capacity, but would like to table the discussion for another meeting.

d) Sign Bylaw/Billboard Overlay Zone

Mr. Morin is awaiting the Bylaw Review Committee's input. Per Mr. McBride, Mr. Morin should continue moving forward with this proposed bylaw change.

e) Pathwalk Peer Review Request, cont'd.

Ms. Allen attended the recent Con Com meeting, where the board voted 3-2 to request a peer review of storm water engineering. They voted to accept what they got from the Water Commission about salt impacts. Paul Foulsham would like to put forward 2 other peer reviewers. The BOS could direct Con Com to get quotes that do not exceed \$2500, but others in the room said the price should be \$1000 max. Per Ms. Allen, the only way to move the project forward is to go ahead with the peer review as members of Con Com just want a peer review. There was more discussion of the pros and cons. Con Com gave questions to the engineer which he answered in writing, but no one on Con Com had reviewed the answers as of the meeting date. Drainage has already been installed in the manner required if the sidewalk is included in the project. The BOS asked why Con Com doesn't pay for this – Answer: because they have the authority to make the applicant pay if they ask for a peer review. Therefore, the BOS will pay because they are the co-applicant. More discussion ensued regarding the peer review, with the BOS concluding that with no review, the project will be stalled. Mr. Foulsham has never been subject to a peer review, however; it is probably safer for the Town if there is a second set of eyes. If there are three quotes the cost will probably be less. More discussion ensued about the issue that has been raised. Con Com doesn't feel personally qualified to judge (that's why an engineer was hired!). If Mr. Foulsham is getting additional quotes, Mr. McBride would like to see them before voting, and would also like to minimize the amount of money spent when the time comes. Per Ms. Allen, the BOS won't meet until after the next Con Com meeting, so it might be better to vote with a project cap.

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to agree to pay for a peer review on the pathwalk project subject to the acceptance of the lowest bid. Motion failed to carry.

Mr. McBride stated that the motion was made and seconded, and asked for a second vote; Mr. Brown, Ms. Allen and Mr. McBride voted yes, Ms. Demong and Mr. Smellie voted no. The motion carried.

Mr. McBride stated that there are concerns about Con Com's actions on this matter.

8. Adjournment – 9:00pm

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn to Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and a potential land acquisition. Mr. McBride polled the board; Ms. Allen voting yes, Mr. Brown voting yes, Mr. McBride voting yes, Ms. Demong voting yes, Mr. Smellie voting yes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg McBride". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Board of Selectmen

