

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2015**

Mr. McBride opened the meeting at 7:40pm, and introduced Jason Brown, Ellen Allen, Alison Demong, Peter Smellie and Town Administrator Peter Morin. *MOTION: Ellen Allen moved to approve the agenda as amended (addition of Jacobs Farmhouse management plan discussion). Seconded by Peter Smellie and unanimously voted.*

Citizen Comments Steve Ivas spoke about the perceived disconnect among Town committees in having a comprehensive plan for walkways and bikeways. He cited some requests from the Advisory Board that have not been acted upon to have management plans and a comprehensive plan when approving articles for the last Town Meeting. As an example, Mr. Ivas gave an overview of the 2012-19 master plan, which did not include a Simon Hill pathway. He also used Bedford, NH as a "role model" of good planning and outreach for the Town's priorities. He asked the BOS to consider spending some consulting money to create a master plan for trails, sidewalks, pathways, etc. Mr. McBride thanked Mr. Ivas and stated that further discussion of this topic would be scheduled for another meeting as it is not on tonight's agenda.

The reporter from WATD news asked about the Main St. Pathwalk project with regard to funding for a peer review. Per Mr. McBride, the review would be funded out of the Pathwalk Article itself.

REPORTS

Selectmen's Report -

Ms. Allen shared legislative updates from a recent Mass. Municipal Assoc. meeting. The House has voted a new public records law which could be more expensive for Towns and will require the designation of a point person for all requests. The bill now moves to the Senate. Other key topics at the State House include unfunded mandates, State revenues (strong so far), proposed changes to the formula for foundation school budgets and a salt capacity update. There is a structural deficit of \$600 million in the current State budget. There is also a strong push for the State to replenish the rainy day fund. Consequently, it is unlikely there be a big jump in state aid.

Town Administrator's Report

The bidding is closed on the Barrell Lane project; one bid came in close to expectations.

Mr. Morin has been working with Treasurer Darleen Sullivan on compliance with new regulations about the eligibility of Town employees for health care. He will make sure that all Department Heads are aware that they need to let him and Ms. Sullivan know if someone's hours change, which may affect their eligibility. Mr. Morin will follow up to make sure that the Town is in compliance.

Announcements:

The Norwell Fire Dept. received a Shining Star award for rescuing 15 horses from a collapsed barn last winter. All horses were in good condition.

Norwell VNA and Hospice is sponsoring the Christmas tree lighting on December 6th on the Common at 4pm. All are invited to attend.

Meg Doherty of the Norwell VNA was listed as no. 6 on the Boston Globe's roster of top women CEO's. The BOS offered Ms. Doherty their congratulations.

The Annual Committee Preservation Committee public hearing will be held at 7pm in the Osborne Room on December 3rd. All are welcome to attend. The hearing will also be televised.

Police Sgt. Lynch is ill, and all wish him a speedy recovery.

Jacobs Farmhouse

Mr. Morin gave a summary of the current issue at hand: he received a "state of the property" email highlighting unsafe conditions from the contractor hired by the NHC. The Board of Health ordered that a second means of egress be provided for the tenants in the farmhouse. The workplace has been secured and the permitting process is underway. The property is overseen by Historic NE, which puts in place a management approach that is dispersed among different boards: Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission and Norwell Historical Commission. The groups need to create a plan together that work towards common goals. The 1989 management and use plan needs to be updated to reflect the current status of the property. Ms. Demong will be the BOS liaison and will meet with each group individually. She will then compile her notes and determine how to get everyone on the same page. Mr. Brown asked about the update process: would it be a Town Meeting approved plan or a vote by the BOS? Mr. Morin will do some research, but the BOS should be the party moving for the modification. Meeting with each of the groups involved is a very good idea. A proposal will be forthcoming.

Public Hearing – McLaren Boston, Motor Vehicle Class 1 application

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, to open the public hearing for McLaren Boston. Clerk Peter Smellie read the public hearing notice from the Patriot Ledger for a class 1 Motor vehicle license. Seconded and unanimously voted.

Mr. Morin introduced Mr. Dan DeSantis, who owns McLaren Boston. He would like to have the opportunity to attend the next BOS meeting to continue the public hearing.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to continue the public hearing to the BOS meeting on December 2, 2015. Unanimously voted

Shawn Murphy – Special Police Officer Appointment

Chief Ross has requested this appointment as more special police officers are needed. Mr. Murphy has completed all of the requirements to be appointed to this position. Currently there are seven special police officers in the Town. Chief Ross gave a summary of the reasons for needing additional personnel.

Motion: made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Shawn Murphy as a Special Police Officer for a term ending June 30, 2016. Seconded and unanimously voted

Mooring Committee Discussion

David Turner, Mooring Committee member, had been asked previously to help draft an updated mooring bylaw for this committee. He gave the BOS two drafts of the proposed changes. Mr. Turner gave a short history of the North River. The real hazard is loose boats causing damage. He also gave definitions of the terms in the proposed bylaw. One substantive issue is the possible elimination of the position of Harbormaster. Mr. Turner did not include this in his draft. A proposed alternative to a Harbormaster would be a Mooring Administrator (as outlined in Bob Molla's draft). It will be up to the BOS to decide. Mr. Turner recommends getting the basics down first, and has talked with Mr. Morin about which direction to take. Mr. Brown asked for a summary of the differences between the Harbormaster and a Mooring Administrator. Answer: A Harbormaster is more hands on (out on the water) to "police" activity, and an Administrator

would be a more clerical position with less water time. Mr. Morin stated that the intent is to distinguish the position's responsibilities between law enforcement and clerical duties. The BOS has repeatedly said "no" to law enforcement. The Harbormaster position in the Town is not the same as a harbormaster in Hingham, Scituate or other coastal towns. Per Mr. McBride, the term Harbormaster implies that the ramifications of State law might be involved. He would like to resolve this at Town Meeting. The Mooring Committee is a very good board with a lot of experience. The solution might be to modify the job description of Harbormaster. Ms. Allen asked if the committee is looking for any input from the BOS. Per Mr. Turner, not necessarily, but it would welcome suggestions. The BOS would like to postpone any decisions until committee member Bob Molla can be present.

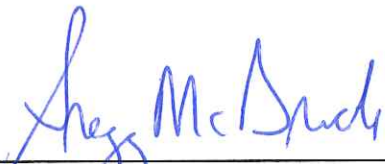
Patrick Reed – Cushing Memorial Directors

Mr. McBride stated that Mr. Reed had expressed interest in serving on this board, and he has contacted Chair Jef Fitzgerald to discuss the board's activities and responsibilities.

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to appoint Patrick Reed to the Cushing Memorial Board of Directors for a term expiring June 30, 2017. Unanimously voted

Adjourn

Motion; made by Ellen Allen, seconded by Peter Smellie, to adjourn at 8:34pm. Unanimously voted



Board of Selectmen

