

**Norwell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
July 31, 2013**

Ellen Allen opened the meeting and introduced Jason Brown, David DeCoste and Town Administrator Jim Boudreau. Tammie Garner participated remotely, so all votes were to be roll called. *MOTION: Jason Brown moved the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded and unanimously voted.*

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None

**7:35 Economic Development Committee – Proposal for Special Town Meeting** – Present: Chair Rick Merritt, Jeff DeMarco, Pat Campbell, and Len Cubellis. Rick Merritt provided a map of various districts of Town that they will be discussing. The EDC reviewed the input taken from Town Meeting, input from the townspeople, folks from High Street and the Selectmen. Merritt then discussed the changes to buffer zones, height of buildings. Within Business C1 & C2 districts, height shall be restricted to 40 feet between the eastern zoning district boundary line of those districts and running parallel to zoning line at a distance of 400 feet. He then discussed the different parts of Rt. 53 that would be included. The purpose would be to increase the Town's commercial based tax. Jason Brown is supportive of what is being proposed to move forward. Tammie Garner does not have any comments because she needs to see the map, but agrees it is important to develop additional commercial tax revenues. Ellen Allen would like the Selectmen to co-sponsor this Article and will discuss this at a future meeting. David DeCoste supports putting this on the Warrant.

**8:00 Rhonda Nyman – Legislative Update** – Representative Nyman updated the Board on legislation: House & Senate passed a state budget of \$34.06 billion for FY2014. Norwell will receive \$3.2M Chapter 70, an increase of \$161K from FY13; Unrestricted Local Aid of \$928K is an increase of \$21K from FY13 and Chapter 90 is being level funded at \$447K. Other State budget highlights for FY14: \$15M investment in early education; increased money for University of Massachusetts, State Universities and Community Colleges to offset the higher cost of higher education; increased funding for Mental Health Services, substance abuse services, providing funding to maintain 626 in-patient mental health beds including 45 at top state hospitals; allocated additional funds for our Council on Aging, 8.1% for chapter 115 benefits for our Veterans; \$67.6M for Transportation services. Working with the Friendship Home, Norwell Council on Aging, Jim Boudreau and initiating talks with Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) to bring GATRA to Norwell; it is currently in Scituate & Hanover and it is working well. Implemented reforms: one would require a photo be placed on all EBT Cards for each member of a household over 18. Rep. Nyman has also been having conversations with Joe Carroll from National Grid on how hard Norwell has been hit due to the storms and issues with double poles. The Governor has released \$200M with \$100M still needing to be released of the Chapter 90 funds which were unanimously voted by the House & Senate; Nyman expressed her disappointment and will keep on top of it.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Committee Liaisons** – Jason Brown: Advisory Board has 3 applications with a possibility of a few more. AB Nominating Committee is working to set a date to begin interviewing. David DeCoste: Energy Committee may have one additional applicant.

**Warrant Article Discussion** – Jim Boudreau is waiting for a Planning Board article that is for a piece of land to be acquired for the Pathways from the Middle School to Circuit Street.

Ellen Allen explained that after the Warrant was closed, the Board received a Citizens Petition. The Petition is to see if the Town will vote to authorize and direct the Selectmen to take by Eminent Domain the parcel of land consisting of 25+ acres in the location of the Simon Hill 40B project, to be funded with CPA funds. Town Counsel explained that the Town could not use the power of eminent domain for this purpose. The reason for opening the warrant for this article is because the Board had been told by the petitioners that if it is not on the Warrant, they would force a Special Town meeting for the purpose of this Article and it would then cost the Town several thousand dollars for an article that would be ruled illegal.

**Open the Warrant** – *MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board of Selectmen Open the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, October 7, 2013. Seconded and unanimously voted. Ellen Allen polled the Board. Brown voted yes, DeCoste voted yes, Allen voted yes and Garner voted yes.*

*MOTION was made by Jason Brown to insert the Citizens Petition into the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting. Seconded by David DeCoste. Ellen Allen polled the Board. Brown voted yes, DeCoste voted yes, Allen voted yes and Garner voted yes.*

**Close Warrant** – *MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board close the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held October 7, 2013. Seconded and unanimously voted. Ellen Allen polled the Board. Brown voted yes, DeCoste voted yes, Allen voted yes and Garner voted yes.*

**Library/Town Hall Next Steps** – Ellen Allen provided a draft Mission Statement for a potential Library/Town Hall Study Committee. The purpose of forming the committee is to comply with instructions to the Selectmen at Town Meeting. Tasks would be: Create an updated 20 year strategic plan for the Library, exploring in particular the impact of electronic devices/media and then determining the approximate size desired for a new library; and study needs of Town Hall looking forward 20 years to determine the approximate size desired. Report back to the Selectmen during the process, share conclusions and recommend whether or not Norwell should apply for the current round of state grants for library projects. Membership should consist of a Library Trustee or designee, Town Administrator or Facilities Manager, PBMC Rep. and 2-4 at large members appointed by Selectmen.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Execute Jacobs Pond Parking/Path/Boardwalk Agreement** – This project was approved at Town Meeting for Jacobs Pond Parking/Path/Boardwalk Improvements. Environmental Partners Group, Inc. of 1900 Crown Colony Drive, Quincy (“EPG”) was selected for the project. Town Counsel had reviewed documents. *MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the contract between Environmental Partners Group, Incorporated and the Town of Norwell for the purpose of Jacobs Pond Parking, Path and Boardwalk improvements. Seconded and unanimously voted. Ellen Allen polled the Board. Brown voted yes, DeCoste voted yes, Allen voted yes and Garner voted yes.*

**Execute Multi-Use Bicycle/Pedestrian Pathway Agreement** – This Project was approved at Town Meeting for the purpose of Engineering Design & Construction Oversight/Management – Segment Two of the Norwell Multi-Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway. The bid was awarded to Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (“HWG, Inc.”) 90 Route 6A in Sandwich MA. Town Counsel has

reviewed documents. *MOTION: Jason Brown moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the contract between Horsley Witten Group, Inc. and the Town of Norwell for the purpose of Engineering Design & Construction Oversight/Management – Segment Two of the Norwell Multi-Use Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway. Seconded and unanimously voted. Ellen Allen polled the Board. Brown voted yes, DeCoste voted yes, Allen voted yes and Garner voted yes.*

Next meeting will be August 14, 2013

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT** – *Motion was made to adjourn. Seconded and unanimously voted. Ellen Allen polled the Board. Brown voted yes, DeCoste voted yes, Allen voted yes and Garner voted yes.*

  
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Board of Selectmen

