

**Norwell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2012**

Ellen Allen opened the meeting and introduced David DeCoste and Town Administrator James Boudreau. Gregg McBride would be arriving later.

MOTION: Ellen Allen moved the Board approve the agenda as written. Seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

7:35 Norwell Open Space and Recreation Committee (NOSRC) Information

Announcement – Marynel Wahl Halatsis announced that the NOSRC is inviting Norwell residents to view and comment on the draft documents, action items and maps that are being prepared for a State review. This 7 year plan is important as an education guide for those individuals interested in the Town of Norwell and as a qualifier to apply for State recreation and other land grants. Maps will be posted for a week in the hallways at Town Hall. Residents are free to leave comments and suggestions using paper & pencils that will be available. This information will also be posted on the Town website. The committee meets every Wednesday evening and anyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

7:40 Affordable Housing Partnership - Adopt Affordable Housing Plan – Ellen Allen

explained that the Board was ready to adopt the Affordable Housing Plan that had been prepared by the Affordable Housing Partnership with the help of a consultant, Karen Sunnarborg. Ellen Allen went on to explain that the Town is required by law to submit a plan every 5 years. In addition to two previous presentations to the Selectmen, a draft was reviewed by the Planning Board, whose comments were incorporated into the final version. *MOTION: David DeCoste moved that the Board adopt the Town of Norwell Massachusetts Housing Production Plan dated May 16, 2012. Seconded by Ellen Allen and unanimously voted.*

Chairman Gregg McBride arrived at the meeting.

8:00 Town Counsel – Charter Change – Town Counsel Bob Galvin was present to explain and answer questions on the Charter Changes which were approved at the Annual Town Election on May 19, 2012. The last update to the Charter had been in 1973. Bob Galvin explained the major changes:

- Selectmen membership increased from 3 to 5
- Clarification of the duties and responsibilities of Selectmen as a policy-making Board
- Definition of who the Selectmen appoint by majority vote: Town Administrator, Town Counsel, Town Auditor and other offices, board and commissions not elected or otherwise provided for in the Town By-Laws
- Changed process for appointments to the Advisory Board; now to be done by an Advisory Board Nominating Committee with 3 members made up of the Moderator, 1 Selectman and 1 Advisory Board Member
- Definition of the role of the Town Administrator
- Establishment of the right of department heads to terminate subordinates with the advice and consent of the Boards, Commissions or other officials under which they serve.

NEW BUSINESS

Hiring Freeze – Due to the override passing, Jim Boudreau asked that the Board discuss lifting the Hiring Freeze that had been in effect since August. The Board discussed lifting the freeze, but having departments send a memo notifying the Selectmen and Jim when hiring. They also noted that departments should not fill one full time position with 2 part-time positions if that would add a second position with benefits.

MOTION: Gregg McBride moved that the freeze be lifted provided the Selectmen and Town Administrator are notified of new hires and further provided that one full time benefited position not be replaced with two part time positions that are both benefits eligible. Seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.

OLD BUSINESS

None

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June 13, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Norwell Duck Derby to held on Sunday, June 16 from 1-3PM at the Bridge Street Landing. This will benefit the Habitat for Humanity home being built at 259 Circuit Street in Norwell.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pending Litigation

MOTION: Gregg McBride moved that the Board enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and not return to open session. Seconded by David DeCoste and unanimously voted.

Vice Chair Ellen Allen explained that to discuss this in an open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining or litigating position. Ellen Allen polled the Board. Gregg McBride voted yes, David DeCoste voted yes and Ellen Allen voted yes.



Board of Selectmen