

Selectmen's Meeting
Room 34, Town Hall

February 26, 2019
Meeting is Recorded

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 in Room 34, the Harry B. Butters Chambers, Norwood Memorial Municipal Building, with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a silent moment of prayer and reflection.

Present: Chairman Thomas F. Maloney Selectmen William J. Plasko, Helen Abdallah Donohue, Paul A. Bishop. Also present General Manager Tony Mazzucco, and Clerk Christina K. Mulvehill.

Appointments

7:00 P.M. – Mark Ryan, DPW Director/Town Engineer:

Mr. Ryan gave an overview of the monthly report of department activities. He made reference to a Recycling Right flyer that was mailed to all residents. The residential food scrap program has begun. There are locations in town where people can drop off scraps. Business Manager Sara Winthrop is working on FEMA grants. Public works has been doing a lot of tree and brush clearing. Watermain Cleaning and Lining will be focused on Prospect Street, starting at Nahatan Street. Selectman Donohue asked whether anyone got hurt when a portion of Dean Street collapsed recently. Mr. Ryan reported there were no injuries. The cemetery chapel work is coming along nicely.

7:15 P.M. – James Collins, Light Department Superintendent:

Mr. Collins gave an overview of his monthly report of department activities. The department has had a number of issues caused by the wind, where several large pine trees came down on both sides of Route 1 at Ellis Avenue, and a pole went over near Walgreens on Route 1 South. On Washington Street at St. Paul another pole was coming over and had to be held by a crew until Verizon got there. Light Department crews worked until midnight last night and there was another call early this morning. Selectman Bishop commends the entire Light Department staff who were out there, yesterday in very windy conditions and today in very cold conditions. They really went above and beyond on the work they did on behalf of the Town. Selectman Donohue said the condition yesterday in Norwood was so much better than in Walpole. Selectman Plasko said he saw the crews out on Route 1 last night doing that work in the high winds. He admires the work these people do in such difficult conditions. Hats off to them all. Mr. Collins agreed, the people who work for him do a good job. Mr. Collins updated the Board on the transmission project, which is ongoing, as is the project at 136 Access Road, the MBTA solar project, and the skating club of Boston. Moderna is online with their battery system, which saves the town money on peak power use times. They are continuing the cable modem and box swap out.

Mr. Hanson was present to give a Broadband update. There aren't many changes from last month. He has been working with Avalon and Regal Press about providing service. Thanks to the loyal customers and great staff, they came out highest in customer accounts in town this year, for the fourth year in a row.

7:30 P.M. – Senator Michael Rush, Representative John Rogers:

Senator Rush and Representative Rogers were present to give a Legislative Update. Representative Rogers said the Governor recently filed House 1, the State Budget for FY 2020 based upon a consensus revenue figure that is arrived at after hearings from state and regional economists, who put together what they think will be the revenue figures to support the budget. The consensus revenue for 2020 is \$29.3 billion, which is a 2.7% more than last year. In the Governor's two biggest forms of local aid, Chapter 70 and UGGA, are pretty heartening. Chapter 70, K-12 education recommended for Norwood \$7, 775, 000 and for UGGA it recommends \$4,939,000, which are both increases over last year. Rep. Rogers fully supports the Governor's recommendations on those two areas. There was discussion that the Chapter 70 calculation is flawed.

Senator Michael Rush, Representative John Rogers: -(cont'd)

Rep. Rogers announced Senator Rush was promoted to the majority whip position of the state senate. Senator Rush expressed his gratitude to the Board for having them in and he feels honored to represent the town of Norwood. Both the House Ways and Means and the State Senate Ways and Means have new Chairman. Senator Rush gave an overview of the budget process and assured the Board that he and Rep. Rogers are here to be the Board's voice and to be their advocate. Representative Rogers explained State Circuit Breaker is the State's obligation to reimburse school districts for seventy five cents on the dollar for every expense related to special education that exceeds four times the foundation budget. He spoke about the collaboration that is prevalent on Beacon Hill. Senator Rush said this has the support of the Governor and the Legislature and both agree something has to be done in terms of education funding. Representative Rogers added that an additional \$483 million toward the Chapter 70 budget is significant. Selectman Plasko said he was hoping that the proposal by the Governor would be solid. Senator Rush added that the State Treasurer Goldberg has indicated she is looking to expand the lottery. In regard to state tax rate, the expectation is that on January of 2020, the rate will be 5.0%.

8:00 P.M. - (P.H.) EMC Restaurant Inc., dba Same Old Place, 111 Lenox Street:

Application for Common Victualler License – (continued from January 29, 2019)

Eric Ciampa from Same Old Place Restaurant was present for the hearing. This hearing was rescheduled in part due to the absence of a parking plan. A parking plan has since been signed off on by the Building Department and is included in the application. Mr. Ciampa's son Eric Ciampa, Jr. was also present. Selectman Bishop stated the application has 35 years of business experience in Jamaica Plain. With no member of the public wishing to comment, on motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to close the hearing. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to approve the application.

8:15 P.M. – Zoning Board of Appeals/Planning Board:

Central Business District Mixed Use Zoning Overlay

Town Planner Paul Halkiotis introduced planning board members Robert Bamber, Al Porro, Joseph Sheehan, Ernie Paciorkowski and associate member Brianna Parson, Asst. Planner Patrick Deschenes and consultant Ted Brovitz. Zoning Board of Appeals members present were Ramanda Morgan, Phil Riley, Barbara Kinter, Thomas Brady, Jack Perry, Assoc. member Scott Murphy and alternate Mary Anderson.

Mr. Halkiotis explained we are planning for the future by development and redevelopment. The proposal is a mixed use overlay district in the Central Business District, with the hope that it would encourage renovation of historic buildings, incentivize redevelopment of properties, and enhance downtown's walkability. The approach for this rezoning will be different and innovative. 32 Guild Street – Olivadi is an example of good downtown mixed use building. The presentation included various mixed use and residential opportunity sites, with the residences being on the upper floors of the businesses. Selectman Plasko spoke about property on Railroad Avenue. The proposed district would expand upon the current central business district.

With the proposed zoning, the Planning Board would be the special permit granting authority. There would be residential unit restrictions as a part of this proposal. Phil Riley spoke on behalf of the ZBA stating the presentation tonight has ballooned out of a more simple situation. The problem arose in 2013 when the ZBA heard a case on property at Cottage Street and Washington Street requesting to put in 8 units for residential use. They were not allowed because they did not have the space. At that time Mr. Riley contacted Planner Steve Costello requesting he initiate some action to amend the pertinent section of the bylaw by either deleting it or compressing the numbers. Discussion of density requirements ensued. Mr. Riley feels there is a far more simple solution to the problem, and he is not sure we need

Selectmen's Appointments

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Zoning Board of Appeals/Planning Board: - (cont'd)

something as complex as the proposed zoning bylaw to solve a simple problem. But if the Board feels that this more complicated proposal is going to be looked at and enacted, the Board of Appeal is more than capable of handling it. We have handle multi-family for special permits forever and there is no reason in their judgment if the Board is going to do this, why you should substitute the Planning Board as the permit granting authority. Chairman Maloney mentioned that the matter of Cottage and Washington came before Town Meeting. Mr. Riley was not at the Town Meeting but the people with whom he spoke about this feel it failed very largely because at that point we were in the middle of the 40B issue and Town Meeting simply was not interested in hearing about more apartments. Mr. Paciorkowski spoke about a previous proposal to put apartment above a business on Washington Street, and this also failed at Town Meeting several years ago. Again it was the density issue. The presentation continued with discussion about parking options and solutions. In addition this proposed by law would require quality open spaces. They will also be updating the 1998 building guidelines as a part of this proposal.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Chairman entertained questions from the Board. Selectman Donohue inquired about limitations that would be imposed on structures constructed before 1950. Mr. Brovitz said the only restriction is preserving the facades. He explained that most communities have design review boards, to ensure new development is well designed and looks good.

Selectman Plasko spoke in support of the concept and thinks it can work. Hopefully the timing is right. In regard to the special permitting approval, Selectman Plasko feels it should absolutely be the Planning Board as this is whole planning concept. Selectman Bishop also spoke in support of the concept. We have to start thinking about the next generations. The plan would have to be tweaked, but it is the right direction in order to make this a better town; a pleasing destination.

Chairman Maloney asked if any other members of Planning or ZBA would like to speak. Planning Board member Debra Holmwood said she does not want to ruin downtown and being specific with details will help prevent that. John Perry spoke about Dedham's design review board, stating they are very strict and it has worked. Most towns have guidelines for this, but Norwood does not. Mr. Sheehan thanked the Board for inviting them, stating he is proud of the work by Planning Department. Mrs. Holmwood recommended the Zoning and Planning Boards sit down together.

New Business

Viola Baboola, Verizon New England:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to file notification of payment to Norwood Community Media of Peg Access Fee per contractual obligation.

Janice Mullen, Norwood Evening Garden Club:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to request to place three sandwich boards to advertise 15th Annual Art in Bloom event to be held April 6th and 7th at George H. Morse House at the traffic island at Washington and Nahatan Streets, traffic island at Guild & Washington Streets, and Nichols Street rotary from March 24th through April 7th.

Budget Hearings:

Selectmen's meeting of March 12, 2019 will begin at 6 p.m. for departmental budget hearings.

Sonia Ramos, General Manager, Jake n Joes, 475 Boston Providence Tnpk:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to approve request for extended hours Saturday, March 2nd into Sunday, March 3rd to show a UFC event being held on West Coast. She requests to stay open until 2 a.m. with the same provisions as the past – the back gate will remain closed, they will have a police detail on site and if the match is cancelled or the event is over before normal business hours, then the license for the later closing will be rescinded.

Melanson Heath, Accountants – Auditors:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to table for one week Independent Auditors' Report annual Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2018.

Unfinished Business

Special Town Meeting:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Bishop, voted to set Special Town Meeting for Thursday, April 25, 2019, close the Warrant on March 19, 2019, and sign the Warrant on March 26, 2019.

ABCC:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted 3-0 to file final approval of Ganesh Market, Inc., dba Pam's Market - Wines and Malt Beverages Package Store License. Selectman Donohue abstained.

Manager's Update

Reserve Fund Transfer – Airport:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request for Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$ 6,032. Included in this total is the \$1,500 request approved by the Board February 19, 2019.

Dean Street Culvert:

Information regarding a sink hole that developed Friday on the edge of Dean Street near the Electric Light Substation.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Donohue

Bob Ivatts

We lost Bob Ivatts who grew up here in Town. He was active in the Recreation Department. He devoted his life to his family and the VFW and will be sorely missed.

Selectman Plasko

Personal Privilege

Tomorrow I am fortunate to celebrate my 49th wedding anniversary to my beautiful wife Kathy. I have been involved in town government in one way or another for the last 46 of those years and she has been very patient and supportive. She took care of bringing up those six kids and 16 grandchildren. I am very fortunate. Thank you for your support and love. I love you very much.

Chairman Maloney

General Manager

Performance evaluation for Mr. Mazzucco data has been distributed to the Board. Please let me know if you have questions. We will forward the data and the overview to Mr. Mazzucco.

Adjournment

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 9:42 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____
Clerk