

Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 in Rm 34, Norwood Memorial Municipal Building, with Pledge of Allegiance, moment of prayer, reflection.

Present: Chairman Thomas Maloney, Selectmen William Plasko, Paul Bishop, Allan Howard and David Hajjar. General Manager Tony Mazzucco, Clerk Christina Mulvehill, Assistant Aoife Kelly.

Reorganization

Chairman Maloney turned the meeting over to Christina Mulvehill for reorganization, who called for nominations for Chair. Selectman Plasko nominated Selectman Bishop for Chair of the Board and Selectman Howard seconded the nomination. The Clerk asked if there were any other nominations. No further nominations being offered, the nominations were declared closed. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Hajjar, voted unanimously to appoint Selectman Bishop as Chairman.

The Chairman called for appointment of Clerk of Board. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to nominate Mrs. Mulvehill, and voted unanimously to appoint Mrs. Mulvehill.

Appointment by the Chairman of the Board of Norwood's Designee (Paul Halkiotis) and Alternate Designee (Bernard Cooper) to the MBTA Advisory Board

Appointments

7:05 P.M. – Chief William G. Brooks III, NPD:

The Chief submitted his report of the department's monthly activities. He announced the retirement of Officer Terry Connolly, and the upcoming Police Exam on Saturday, April 20, 2019. Two sessions of Rape Aggression Training were held at Norwood High, with one for students and another for faculty. The Chief stated the department is in receipt of the Pedestrian Safety Grant, to be used to watch for pedestrians using unsafe methods and for cars not stopping in crosswalks. He reported an incident on Washington Street in the vicinity of Day Street during which a pedestrian was seriously injured after being struck by a car as he crossed Washington Street. The vehicle operator was arrested for OUI.

The Chief reported meeting with the Brazilian community at Word of Life Church on Route 1A, accompanied by Officer Diego Silva. He explained to the community that the job of the police is to protect everyone who is here, regardless of how they got here and the Police don't enforce immigration laws. Selectman Hajjar commended the Chief on his outreach with all these programs, pointing out that it helps with bonding with young people and other members of the community. When asked by Selectman Maloney how many women attended the rape aggression classes, Chief Brooks said he did not have exact numbers but the classes generally range from 10 to 25 participants. The training is a total of twelve hours and follows a national structure of four hours per night, starting with prevention and safe practices, then self-defense, and on the last night the officers dress in heavily padded suits, and go at it with the attendees. Selectman Maloney inquired about the Chief's visit to Living Waters Church, asking did he find people from other cultures to be fearful of interacting with the Police Force. Chief Brooks said sometimes they are afraid of immigration and sometimes they are afraid of the Police and the main reason for his meeting with them is to try to take some of that away. The Chief spoke about immigration detainers where if the police arrest somebody for committing a crime in Norwood and they are fingerprinted, those fingerprints travel electronically through a federal system which included immigration and customs enforcement. If that person has been arrested and convicted of a serious crime in the past, then immigration is notified. They look at that and if they choose to file a detainer they notify the police. The supreme Judicial Court has ruled that local law enforcement and sheriffs are powerless in Massachusetts to enforce those. The Chief said they hear about persons in that community who has been a victim of domestic violence or was a witness to or is aware of conduct that should have been reported to the Police and they held it back, and that is not good. The police do not want anyone to be abused or be hurt or be the victim of a crime. They want them to feel comfortable approaching the police. Chairman Bishop thanked the Chief for his outreach to the Brazilian community and to school children who look upon the police organization as something they should not be afraid of. The Chairman asked the status on the proposed bill on distracted driving. The Chief has not heard how that turned out.

7:15 P.M. – Chief George Morrice, NFD:

Chief Morrice began by congratulating Selectmen Maloney for his reelection to the Board and Selectmen Hajjar for his election to the Board. He spoke about a single car motor vehicle accident on Sunday on 1A near Big Y. the ladder truck stabilizer bars were used to secure the vehicle to keep it from rocking in order to extricate the driver through the windshield. The driver was transferred to Norwood Hospital with non-critical injuries. Chief Morrice informed the public that it is currently burning season, and the dry weather led to a brush fire in Allen Road today. Residents can get a burning permit at the Fire Department, but must adhere to the rules that govern burning activity, including calling the Fire Department before they actually burn anything.

The Chief continued his report. Over the past month NFD responded to two mutual aid fires in Walpole. Chief appointed Firefighter Jeff Shockley to the IT position and FF Shockley has been working with Town Hall IT to discern the computer systems and what they do. The Fire department has a Computer Aided Dispatch which does not work in conjunction with the actual documentation software they have. They are looking into software to connect the two systems to each other which will take information entered by the dispatchers and push it into the computers on the ambulances. Lt. Joe Mawn is returning from an army tour overseas and there will be a small ceremony to welcome him back. This past weekend, fourteen members of the department volunteered their time to do the Fight for Air Stair Climb held in Boston, which is a fundraiser for the American Lung Association. Participants had full gear on and also wore the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, which is their air packs, and they climbed 41 flights of stairs. Chief Morrice spoke about recently deceased former Deputy Mike Abely who was his captain when he started thirty years ago. He was a good, kind man who was well respected by other members of the department in addition to the residents.

Selectman Hajjar asked the Chief to make certain modifications to his monthly report including adding a column showing the previous fiscal year numbers for comparison to the current year, in addition to a comment column to make notes as to abnormal or unusual circumstances affecting the numbers. There was brief discussion of the permitting process on home projects. He asked if the fees charged for these inspection services have been looked at to ensure they are comparable to those charged by other towns. Selectman Hajjar also asked, in regard to training, if the reports could show number of people that have been trained and for how many hours. Mr. Mazzucco explained the challenge being much of the fire department training is in house training when the entire group is present. Selectman Plasko asked how the billing back and forth for mutual aid is done and the Chief told him it is done between the departments. Norwood pays out more than it takes in due to being busier than other departments and therefore calling in aid more often. Selectman Howard inquired as to any upcoming CPR courses being offered. Chief Morrice said new CPR training equipment was just purchased with the grant from Mr. Valera of Norwood Urgent Care. Selectman Maloney asked about ambulance collections for the month of February 2019 in the amount of \$116,000 and down below on the report has deposits to the Town for February 2019, which should say 'through February 2019'.

7:30 P.M. – Seth Pickering, DOER/ Green Communities Division:

Mr. Pickering introduced himself and also his director, Nick Connors. He gave a quick overview of the Green Communities Program. There are currently 240 Green Communities in the state. Green communities designation and grant program awards grants and loans to qualifying communities to help fund energy efficiency initiatives, renewable energy, and innovative projects. The estimated designation grant amount for Norwood is \$190,000. Mr. Pickering reviewed some of the qualifying criteria for these grants, including expedited permitting, fuel efficient vehicles, and adoption of Stretch Code. The Stretch Code must be adopted as a general by law by Town Meeting and as of November 27, 2018, 250 municipalities had adopted it. The code applies to new residential and commercial construction only. Mr. Pickering gave an overview of the HERS (Home Energy Rating System) process. Mr. Mazzucco expressed confidence in the town's ability to meet all of the five criteria required.

New Business

Special Town Meeting Warrant:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to sign the April 25, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Mazzucco asked the Board to consider adding Article 21, Transportation Infrastructure Fund. This is a request to appropriate \$ 9,988. The state has a tax on ride share services Uber and Lyft, and they distribute that back out to the communities based on the number of rides they have. That has to be appropriated by Town Meeting but can only be spent for transportation related projects or processes. He recommends installing bike racks at town parks. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to add Article 21 to the warrant and to support it.

Selectman Hajjar question the absence of the Fin Com stabilization fund issue. Mr. Mazzucco explained that the Finance Commission did not formally transmit that to the Board. They want to establish a special purpose stabilization fund for large vehicle purchases, but this Board has not had a chance to discuss this yet and there is no funding mechanism. The Manager recommends addressing this at the Annual Town Meeting. The Board then discussed their positions on the articles. On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to support Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to support Articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to support Article 8.

Selectman Plasko asked about Article 7, Open Lot Storage. Mr. Halkiotis said the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals have been approving open lot storage for automobiles and a number of lots have been approved over the years. The zoning is for smaller auto storage lots, where no cars being shown or sold. These lots are fenced off for storage only. For lots with fewer than 99 vehicles, Board of Appeals issues special permits. For lots with more than one hundred cars, the Planning Board is the special permit granting authority. The Planning Board approved a controversial project for DCD Realty Trust for vehicle storage on both sides of the Neponset River initially, which got scaled back. The public hearing process was very contentious and the neighbors did not want this in their neighborhood. On concern was car carriers leaving Route 1 and accessing certain areas because some roads are inaccessible to the carriers due to the low height of the railroad bridges. There was concern about the trucks making the turn from Washington Street to Short Street. Open Lot Storage does not generate real estate taxes because there are no buildings involved and does not create any local jobs. Research going back twenty to thirty years, shows about 40 acres being used for storage outside of the Automile with over three thousand vehicles. Although this is only allowed in the manufacturing district, lots have been found in other areas as well, which is an enforcement issue for the Building Departments. The Planning Board discussed establishing a one year moratorium on open lot storage in order to do a study on the issue. The auto dealers are important to the Town's financial base and a significant amount of people are employed on the auto mile. The major change will be to allow parking garages or storage structures on the Automile. Selectman Plasko spoke in favor of the proposed moratorium, as did Chairman Bishop. Selectman Maloney pointed out that the statute that requires open lot storage to be permitted by the Fire Department allows the Town to charge fees for open lot storage. Selectman Hajjar concurred with the moratorium, stating there needs to be a better balance of what the Town is trying to do in those areas where they are currently parking. Those doing it without permit should be notified as should the property owners allowing the use. Mr. Halkiotis state the two mile corridor of Route 1 has four different zoning districts. He said the Planning Board will conduct a corridor study of Route 1 and develop a uniform code of zoning for the whole district along Route 1 with auto storage being allowed. Mr. Halkotis spoke about Article 5, Mixed Use Overlay District Bylaw and the goal to create residential units in commercial districts. Article 6, Footnote, allows greater density in commercial zones, consistent with what will be allowed in the down town area. Selectman Hajjar referred to questions from Judith Howard and Toni Eosco. Mr. Halkiotis responded to both already and he will update Selectman Hajjar. Selectman

Howard asked what the benefits of Articles 5 and 6 would be. The down town area is suffering and stagnant. There has been no new construction, remodeling, additions, etc. and very little investment in that area. Communities are changing down town zoning to create housing around the town centers. They consider the Olivadi property a model for this concept, which will provide reinvestment in down town properties. On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to endorse Article 5 Mixed Use Overlay District Bylaw. On motion of Selectman Hajjar, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to support Article 7 Open Lot Storage Moratorium. Article 6, Footnote stands alone for now. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to support Article 6.

David Hern, Town Moderator:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file notice of schedule of "Town Meeting 101", and proposing date of April 10, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Judith Howard and Toni Eosco, Town Meeting Members:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to file correspondence regarding Mixed Use Overly District.

Cemetery Deeds:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to sign:
Anne D. Diskin, 401 C Bahama Drive, to Lot U-38.

Amanda Storth, 301 Buckminster Drive:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to make a verbal commitment to proclaim the week of April 8, 2019 as the "Week of the Young Child" in Norwood. Selectman Hajjar said they are asking for a proclamation too, but that request did not come from an organization. The Board will not send a proclamation.

Thomas F. Brannelly, 40 Marlboro Street:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Hajjar, voted to approve request to place a Banner on the poles on Washington Street between Vernon and Day Streets, highlighting the "End Distracted Driving" campaign. Howard Plasko

Paul Samargedlis, Norwood Post 70 American Legion Baseball:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Maloney, voted to approve request to close Day Street from Washington to Central on Sunday, April 28, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to hold the 3rd Annual Zero K Road Race. This race is sponsored by Napper Tandy's.

Anne Chetwynd, Operations Support Services, National Grid:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to file copy of Frequently Asked Question sheet, city notification letter and sample notice being sent to abutters at the following addresses in Norwood, 154 to 220 Nichols St., 245 Nichols St., 85 to 90 Bond St., 94 to 103 Elliot St., 92 to 102 Rosemary St., 2 to 12 Shattuck Park Rd., 11 to 17 Peabody Rd., 32 to 45 Belmont St., 17 to 64Oak Rd., regarding upcoming construction work. Construction is expected to being on March 29, 2019 and anticipated to last to May 31, 2019.

Tom Sharkey, Vice President, Norwood Little League:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve request to hold the Annual Little League Parade on Saturday, April 20, 2019. This year they will be joined by the Norwood Girls Softball League. The Parade will leave the Norwood Elks parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and proceed down Walnut Avenue to Washington Street, through South Norwood to the Coakley Middle School, ending up at Kelley Field. The Norwood Little League Program would be honored if any of the Members of the Board of Selectmen were present for Opening Day Ceremonies. They are also requesting a police and fire escort on the parade route.

Diego Silva, Race Director:

On motion of Selectman Maloney, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve request for the 5th Annual Run for a Vet 5 Mile Road Race on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. All pre and post-race activity will take place at Norwood High School. He has coordinated this event with the Norwood Police Department. This year they will honor Glenn Blackburn of Dover. He is a Vietnam Veteran, Silver Star and Purple Heart recipient.

Sean Warnock, Assistant Director of Information Technology:

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve request to declare as surplus the attached list of items, which are either obsolete or no longer functioning due to irreparable damages. These items include but not limited to PCs, monitors, printers and switches.

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

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request for extended hours from Saturday, April 13th into Sunday, April 14th to show a UFC event being held on the West Coast. She requests to stay open until 2 a.m. with the same provisions as in 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.

Travis Farley, Supt. Recreation Department:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to approve request to place A Frame sign on island in front of High School to advertise the need for seasonal lifeguards for the Town.

Mary-Joe Perry, District 5 Highway Director, MassDot:

On motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to file small bridge inspection report on Westovr Pkwy/ Germany Brook. (Has been sent to Supt. Mark Ryan).

DPW Summer Jobs Lottery:

Applications are available online at www.norwoodma.gov, under Employment Opportunities, and are due by Monday, April 29, 2019. Lottery will take place during the Selectmen's Meeting on April 30, 2019.

Selectmen's Addenda

Selectman Maloney

Election

Thank you to all who helped him on his campaign. Special thanks to his wife Kathy and children John and Laura.

Helen Abdallah Donohue

There is no one who cares more about this Town, its people, its history. Her service on this board for eighteen years was exemplary. Ms. Donohue was also a part of many committees, organizations and civic groups. Salute to Helen for having served the community for so long. She will stay involved in the civic side. It was a pleasure to serve with her.

David Hajjar

Welcome to Mr. Hajjar. He is very diligent and pays attention to detail. He will be a great addition to this board.

Jack McCarthy

Well wishes to Jack who just had surgery and is recovering well.

Selectman Howard

Helen Abdallah Donohue

He grew up in South Norwood and was classmate of Olga. They are very good people. Helen will be missed on the board.

David Hajjar

Welcome to the board.

Well-wishers

Thank you to all who sent cards and well-wishes.

Selectman Plasko

Volunteering

Encourage people to step forward and volunteer for one of the various committees in town. There are major boards such as Zoning, Airport Commission, Permanent Building and more.

David Hajjar

Congratulations on the hard fought victory. He worked hard for it and has put in a lot of time. He will be a positive addition to the board. With change comes new chemistry and new ideas.

Helen Abdallah Donohue

Thank you for eighteen years of service. She is a fantastic colleague and very dedicated to the Town. Hope she will stay involved.

Selectman Maloney

Congratulations and thank you for your Chairmanship this past year.

Selectman Hajjar

Warm Welcome

Thank you for the warm welcome. Having worked with all the members in different capacities over the years he knows they get along well. It is an honor to be a part of this board. Thank you to supporters, especially his wife Elaine and sons Matt and Nick who did anything he asked them to do. This was a process that started months ago.

Helen Abdallah Donohue

Thank you for your years of service. One of the best things was you could argue with Helen and the next day she would be sharing a cake with you.

Jack McCarthy

Wishing Jack well as he recovers from his surgery.

Positions

Helen was occupying a couple of positions on Boards such as CPC and Capital Outlay.

Chairman Bishop

Helen Abdallah Donohue

Helen was a colleague and we did not always agree but varying opinions are good. Wish her all the best in the future. Helen always did things for the best of everyone in the Town of Norwood.

David Hajjar

Welcome to Mr. Hajjar.

Adjournment

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Selectman Howard, seconded by Selectman Plasko, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 9:15 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____

Clerk