

Selectmen's Meeting
Room 34, Town Hall

July 25th, 2023
Meeting is Recorded

In Attendance: Chairman Matthew Lane, Vice Chairman Robert Donnelly, Selectman William Plasko, Selectman Amanda Grow, Selectman Michael Saad, Assistant General Manager Michael Rosen, Executive Assistant Jess Jozwik

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer or reflection.

On motion of Selectman Donnelly, seconded by Selectman Grow, the Board voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes for June 29th, 2023 – Light Commissioner's Meeting.

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Saad, the Board voted unanimously to approve a request from Sean Connolly to hold a block party on August 26th, 2023 from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM. The location of the party is noted as Meadow Street – between Juniper Drive and Heather Drive.

On motion of Selectman Donnelly, seconded by Selectman Saad, the Board voted unanimously to approve two requests from Paul Eysie, on behalf of St. George's Orthodox Church: 1. For a one day liquor permit for their 100 Year Anniversary Celebration. The event will take place on Saturday, September 30th from 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM with 100-150 guests expected. 2. To close Atwood Avenue in South Norwood from 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM for the Anniversary Celebration.

On motion of Selectman Grow, seconded by Selectman Plasko, the Board voted unanimously to approve a request from Susana Murphy for a one day liquor permit for an art event to be held at 642 Washington Street on August 2nd, 2023 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM with thirty guests expected.

Boch Fund application and deadline: Chairman Lane directed this item to Assistant Town Manager Michael Rosen for discussion. Mr. Rosen spoke about the generous donation and its purpose - to fund various organizations throughout the Town that may be in need of a little help. Mr. Rosen proposed the date of September 6th as a deadline for all applications to be received with a date of September 12th or 26th for winners to be announced. On motion of Selectman Donnelly, seconded by Selectman Plasko, the Board voted unanimously to set the deadline for receipt of applications as September 6th, 2023.

Representative John Rogers and Senator Michael Rush appeared before the Board to discuss various items of interest to Norwood residents. Representative Rogers opened with comments regarding the State's budget for FY24. Representative Rogers noted that Massachusetts was the only state that has not yet enacted a final budget for next year's state appropriations. Both he and Senator Rush have been calling the House and Senate conferees to try to push it along in order to get a budget on Governor Healey's desk to be signed. A record amount of local aid - \$21.8 million dollars - will be available for Norwood. \$16,341,000 would go to K-12 Public Education for Norwood's schoolchildren with \$5,474,000 allotted for unrestricted General Government aid. This has never been done before so both Senator Rush and Representative Rogers are eager but they are trying to be patient with their colleagues in the House and the Senate to get this budget done.

Representative Rogers mentioned that there is a multi-million dollar tax relief package that is also being debated at this time.

Senator Rush noted the importance to all present and to all who are watching from home - that this legislative session has approximately 7,000 pieces of legislation to be filed. Any person can testify for or against a piece of legislation. A hybrid model has been adopted which allows residents of the state of Massachusetts who may be passionate about a piece of legislation, instead of having to travel far distances, they are able to do it from the comfort of their homes. Senator Rush has noticed a heightened level of involvement thanks to the hybrid opportunity. Each and every bill receives a public hearing and then moves through the process. If folks are interested, they can go to the mass.gov legislative website and if they have any particular interest, there are twenty seven joint committees where the legislation on a particular matter goes to for the hearing.

Throughout the meeting both Senator Rush and Representative Rogers spoke extensively regarding the legislative process and gave updates regarding pending legislation and were open to receiving input from the Board about issues

relevant to Norwood residents. Numerous topics were touched upon throughout this legislative visit with discussion between Representative Rogers and Senator Rush as well as members of the Board.

Reserve Fund Transfers: Assistant Town Manager Michael Rosen spoke in great detail on this matter. Due to underfunding in the budget, two reserve fund transfers need to be made.

They are as follows: \$85,895.00 for the Morrill Memorial Library and \$79,455.00 for Town Counsel. On motion of Selectman Donnelly, seconded by Selectman Grow, the Board voted unanimously to approve the reserve fund transfers as noted.

Town Accountant Contract: Town Accountant Meg LaMay has properly notified the Board with regard to discussing her continued employment with the Town. Selectman Plasko commented that the way the contract is written – the Board has until August 5th, 2023 to respond. On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Saad, the Board voted unanimously that a letter be sent from the Board to Ms. LaMay asking her for a mutually agreed upon 90 calendar day extension which sets the date as Friday, November 3rd, 2023 for the Town’s renewal notification date. This extension will allow for discussion regarding Ms. LaMay’s continued interest in employment with the Town of Norwood. Mr. Plasko added that Ms. LaMay’s reply should be received at the Selectmen’s Office by Tuesday, August 1st, 2023.

On motion of Selectman Donnelly, seconded by Selectman Saad, the Board voted unanimously to approve the one day liquor permit for Barrel House Z for two events at Winsmith Mill, 61 Endicott Street. The first event is scheduled for August 5th, 2023 and the second on September 23rd, 2023 from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM with 300 guests expected.

Memoranda

- Norfolk County Commissioners Complaint – submitting information.
- ABCC Correspondence – Submitting approvals for Castle Island and ILC Ventures.
- Xfinity Notice – Submitting information.
- Norwood Police Department – Submitting monthly police report for June 2023.

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Grow, the Board voted unanimously to file the above noted Information.

Manager’s Update

Assistant Town Manager Michael Rosen had a few announcements for the Board: the Summer Concert Series continues – almost halfway through already. National Night Out is scheduled for August 1st on the Common from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. The Storm Water Ad Hoc Committee will be holding an in person meeting on August 10th. That will be the last public meeting before they get together and make recommendations to the Board. The Capital Outlay Committee is meeting on August 3rd. Town staff has been doing a great job at putting together a five year plan. Lastly, General Manager Tony Mazzucco will return from vacation on August 1st. Chairman Lane thanked Mr. Rosen for holding down the fort at Town Hall in Mr. Mazzucco’s absence.

Selectmen’s Addenda

Selectman Plasko: Mr. Hopcroft had sent a letter regarding the status of the PBCC and three recommendations that he made, of actions that the Board probably should be taking. It was basically agreed that his third recommendation would be most agreeable - to put forth the motion at Town Meeting to permanently repeal the PBCC by-law and probably delegate it to the Facilities Department. Mr. Plasko has created a draft for review of the Board and requests that members take a look at it before the next meeting and suggest editorial changes or suggest that you don’t like it at all and you don’t want to go forward with it or some compromise. This is just to get the discussion started to see if it can go to this fall’s Town Meeting.

Selectman Donnelly: Regarding the August 10th Storm Water Utility Committee meeting at Murphy Field at 6:30 PM. The committee is primarily focused on recommending, to the Town, how to finance the many storm water infrastructure projects over the next several years.

Chairman Lane: Mr. Lane thanked Representative Rogers and Senator Rush for their appearance before the Board. He also thanked Selectman Grow for facilitating their visit.

On motion of Selectman Plasko, seconded by Selectman Donnelly, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

A True Record

ATTEST: _____
Assistant