

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of
Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Members present: John Pepper, Chair; Claudette Brochu, Vice Chair; Roger Arnold; John Langhus; Mary Layton; Herb Durfee, Town Manager; Miranda Bergmeier, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 9 people in the audience.

Also participating: Darius Faudie, Jonathan Fenton, Alden Benedict, Blythe Adams, Omer Trajman, Mary Westrich, Georgia Bilar, Neil Fulton, Doug Lindgren, Jill Kearney, Bill Tine, David Hubbard, John Carroll, John Farrell, Linda Gray, Suzanne Leiter, Thad Goodwin, and Linda Cook.

1. Approval of Agenda. Selectboard (SB) members agreed to add John Carroll to the agenda, to provide an overview of the facilitated discussion planned for the 3/28/2019 SB meeting.
2. Public Comment. John Farrell spoke about his request to be reappointed as Town Service Officer. Farrell said that over the past year he had 5 requests for service; 4 of which resulted in grants of assistance. Linda Cook said that, with regard to Tracy Hall energy usage, we need to do better with the gym doors. Several members of the Marion Cross 5th-grade class (listed above) spoke in favor of the proposed ban on plastic bags and Jonathan Fenton distributed copies of an article showing the scientific basis of said ban. [This article will be included in the SB packet for 4-10-2019.] Omer Trajman, Finance Committee Chair, gave an update on the committee's review of town financial policies. Trajman said they will provide a consolidated written opinion and 2 people to work with SB members to revise the policies, as needed.
3. Appointments to Open Positions.
Tree Warden: Thad Goodwin spoke in support of his application for reappointment as Tree Warden. Goodwin and SB members had a general discussion on trees, including issues concerning Emerald Ash Borer, and roadside trees within the town right of way. Langhus **moved** (2nd Brochu) to appoint Thad Goodwin as Tree Warden for a one-year term ending in March 2020. **Motion passed unanimously.**
Energy Committee: Charles Lindner spoke in support of his application for appointment to the Energy Committee. Linda Gray spoke in favor of Suzanne Leiter's application for the Energy Committee, as Leiter was unable to attend the SB meeting. Brochu **moved** (2nd Langhus) to appoint Charles Lindner to the Energy Committee for a three-year term ending in March 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.** Layton **moved** (2nd Langhus) to appoint Suzanne Leiter to the Energy Committee for a three-year term ending in March 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**
Conservation Commission: David Hubbard spoke in favor of Chris Rimmer's application for the Conservation Commission, as Rimmer was unable to attend the SB meeting. Layton **moved** (2nd Langhus) to appoint Chris Rimmer to the Conservation Commission for a four-year term ending in March 2023. **Motion passed unanimously.**
Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District (GUV) and Audit Committee: Neil Fulton spoke in support of his application for reappointment to the GUV. Fulton gave the SB an update on GUV's activities, where he has been serving as Chair. Fulton discussed organic waste composting and efforts to develop a facility that can process food waste that is still in packaging. Doug Lindgren spoke in support of his application for Audit Committee. Lindgren had applied for appointment to GUV, but said that he is happy to have Fulton continue his work on GUV and Lindgren is not interested in the GUV alternate position. Lindgren said that he is semi-retired and wants to contribute to his community the skills he has gained in finance and business. Layton **moved** (2nd Pepper) to appoint Herb Durfee as alternate representative to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District for a two-year term ending in March 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.** Langhus **moved** (2nd Pepper) to

reappoint Neil Fulton as representative to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District for a two-year term ending in March 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.** Langhus **moved** (2nd Pepper) to appoint Doug Lindgren to the Audit Committee for a three-year term ending in March 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Recreation Council: Jill Kearney spoke in support of Bill Tine, Kristin Fauci, and Ryan Gardner, who all applied for appointment to the Recreation Council. Bill Tine spoke in support of his application, as well. Langhus **moved** (2nd Pepper) to appoint William Tine, Kristin Fauci, and Ryan Gardner to the Recreation Council for three-year terms ending in March 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Watershed Land Management Council: David Hubbard spoke in support of his own application for the Land Management Council and that of Byron Haynes, who was unable to attend the SB meeting. In response to SB questions, Hubbard explained that the Land Management Council acts as steward for lands owned by the Fire District. The Council manages the land for forestry and recreation; Len Miraldi is the forester. Langhus asked Hubbard if there was a portion of the Fire District lands that could serve as a preferred site for solar energy. Hubbard explained that there was not. Hubbard said that the SB should be aware that the Emerald Ash Borer is coming to the region, and Norwich has a very large number of ash trees. Hubbard recommended the SB propose to the voters that Norwich establish a designated fund to deal with the issue, depositing \$50,000 per year into the fund.

Langhus **moved** (2nd Pepper) to appoint David Hubbard to the Watershed Land Management Council for a three-year term ending in March 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.** Brochu **moved** (2nd Layton) to appoint Byron Haynes to the Watershed Land Management Council for a three-year term ending in March 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Town Service Officer: John Farrell had spoken to the SB earlier in the meeting in support of his application for Town Service Officer. Langhus **moved** (2nd Brochu) to appoint John Farrell as Town Service Officer for a one-year term ending in March 2020. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3.5 John Carroll – re: SB Goals Discussion on 3/28/2019. Pepper introduced the topic by saying that John Carroll will help the SB members conduct their goals discussion at their March 28th meeting. Carroll said that the 3/28 meeting will be for the SB members to put all of their ideas on the table. SB members will then take some time to contemplate before reconvening and finalizing their goals at a later meeting. Carroll gave a synopsis of the process for the 3/28 meeting.

4. Town Manager Report. Durfee summarized his written report, which will be included in the 4/10/19 SB meeting packet. Highlights of the report are that Durfee has started to put together the next budget; FEMA reimbursement is still outstanding from both a portion of the 2011 Irene damages and from the July 2017 storm. Durfee has continued to work with FEMA to satisfy their requirements for funding applications. Pepper said that he would like Durfee to consider expanding the membership of the hiring committee for Finance Director to bring in additional reviewers. Langhus agreed. Durfee said that union negotiations are proceeding with police and DPW workers. Durfee just found out today that Norwich received a grant for replacing a culvert on Tigertown Road, which was not going to be covered by FEMA.

5. Consent Agenda. Langhus **moved** (2nd Brochu) to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of correspondence from Charlotte Metcalf. **Motion passed unanimously.** Brochu said that she thinks Metcalf deserved answers to the questions she raised in her correspondence. Langhus and Layton said that Langhus and Linda Gray had answered the questions. Langhus **moved** (2nd Layton) to accept correspondence from Charlotte Metcalf dated March 11, 2019. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Selectboard Policies Review. Brochu said that she proposed this agenda item. Brochu said that she and Linda Cook had started to inventory the town's policies. SB members agreed to add the list of policies when they talk about goals at their 3/28 meeting.

7. Future Meeting Agenda Items. Omer Trajman, Chair of the Finance Committee, said that the Finance Committee should have some feedback for the SB regarding financial policies at a May 2019 SB meeting.

SB members agreed to the following agenda items for their next meeting:

- Plastic Bags Ordinance (Langhus)
- Town Plan Update; Jaci Allen & Rod Francis to be invited (Langhus)
- Affordable Housing Fund Policy Update (Langhus)
- Union Negotiations Update (Durfee)
- 2018-2019 Budget Spending Update – Spending & Revenues (Brochu)

For the April 24 meeting:

Trails Committee – re: Gile Mtn. Parking Lot Possible Expansion

At 9:36 pm, Langhus **moved** (2nd Brochu) to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on April 10, 2019

John Pepper
Selectboard Chair

Next Meetings – April 10, 2019 – Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATV RECORDS ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE NORWICH SELECTBOARD.