

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of
Wednesday, April 24, 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 35 people in the audience.

Also participating: Lily Trajman, Leah Romano, Melissa Horwitz, Arline Rotman, Stan Teeter, Anne Silberfarb, Cody Williams, Cheryl Asa, Irv Thomae, John Farrell, Robert Gere, Brie Swenson, Doug Wilberding, Jaci Allen, Rod Francis, Jeff Lubell, Charlotte Metcalf, Bill Scavone, Nick Krembs, Police Chief Jennifer Frank, Miriam Horwitz, Linda Cook, Ed Childs, Creigh Moffatt, Brian Loeb, and Marcia Calloway.

1. Approval of Agenda. Selectboard (SB) members agreed to agenda item #7, Gile Mtn. Parking Area, to a point earlier in the meeting, to accommodate members of the public who wish to comment.
2. Public Comment. No public comment was offered.
3. Women's Club Alcohol Policy Waiver Request. Lily Trajman, of the Women's Club, said that they plan to hold an 80's themed dance on May 18, 2019 and would like to serve wine and beer at the event. They have hired Maple Street Catering. Layton **moved** (2nd Pepper) to grant the request submitted by the Norwich Women's Club for a waiver of the town's alcohol ordinance to enable the Women's Club to serve wine and beer at their event at Tracy Hall on May 18, 2019. **Motion passed unanimously.**
4. Appointment to Open Positions. Layton **moved** (2nd Arnold) to appoint Leah Romano to the Planning Commission for a four-year term ending in April 2023. Leah Romano said that she has loved her work on the Planning Commission, and said that the biggest lesson she has learned is listening. **Motion passed unanimously.** Layton **moved** (2nd Brochu) to appoint Melissa Horwitz to the Planning Commission for a four-year term ending in April 2023. **Motion passed unanimously.** Layton **moved** (2nd Langhus) to appoint John Carroll, Stanley Teeter, and Don McCabe to the Development Review Board for three-year terms ending in April 2022. Arline Rotman, member of the DRB, spoke on behalf of Don McCabe, who was unable to attend the meeting. Rotman said that McCabe was very good worker on the DRB. Stanley Teeter explained to the SB that the DRB looks at individual development activities in town to see if they conform to the Town Plan and regulations. Brochu asked if it would be easier for the DRB to function with more stringent regulations. Joh Carroll said that clarity and specificity are desired, but not stringency or laxity. Carroll said the DRB has sometimes a quasi-judicial function to decide disputes. **Motion passed unanimously.** Layton **moved** (2nd Brochu) to appoint Anne Silberfarb to the Historic Preservation Commission for a three-year term ending in April 2022. Anne Silberfarb spoke briefly in support of her application for appointment. **Motion passed unanimously.** Brochu **moved** (2nd Langhus) to appoint Cheryl Asa and Cody Williams to the Conservation Commission for four-year terms ending in March 2023. Cody Williams and Cheryl Asa spoke in support of their applications for appointment. Brochu **moved** (2nd Langhus) to appoint Irv Thomae and Obie Joyful as delegates and Robert Gere as alternate delegate to ECFiber for one-year terms ending in April 2020. Irv Thomae and Robert Gere spoke in support of their applications for appointment. Thomae said that ECFiber expects this year to extend down Union Village Road, on both ends of Goodrich Four Corners, and also in pieces of the Jericho neighborhood that are within Norwich. **Motion passed unanimously.** Layton **moved** (2nd Langhus) to appoint Steve Gaughan to the Recreation Council for a three-year term ending in March 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.** Langhus **moved** (2nd Brochu) to appoint Bonnie Munday as Deputy Health

Officer for a three-year term ending in May 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.** Langhus **moved** (2nd Layton) to appoint Jeff Goodrich as representative to the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission for a one-year term ending in April 2020. Brochu said she has some concerns about Goodrich being reappointed. She expressed concern about Goodrich's lack of attendance at TRORC meetings, which denies Norwich a voice on TRORC as a full commission. Layton said that she appreciates Jeff's expertise and his contribution on those issues he works on. Doug Wilberding said that he thinks the SB should appoint Rod Francis, the Planning Director, as the TRORC representative, because many of the reps from other towns do have the same expertise. Wilberding said it is essential for the TRORC rep or alternate rep to attend all of the commission meetings. Arnold said that party of the issue is that the SB could insist on closer communication with the town's TRORC rep. Pepper said that he thinks it is essential for the TRORC rep to attend the meetings, and he cannot support a candidate who does not have the same priority on that matter. Rod Francis, Planning Director, said that he attends the TRORC meetings and explained that the full TRORC meetings are where the commission votes; members use committee meetings to work on various issues. **Motion failed 4 to 1 (yes- Langhus; no- Brochu, Pepper, Layton, Arnold).** SB discussed options for proceeding with regard to appointing a rep and an alternate rep to the TRORC. Among those options was to possibly appoint Rod Francis as the rep. Jeff Lubell said that he applied to the alternate rep position because he wants Norwich to have strong representation on TRORC. Lubell said that, as alternate, he would attend meetings when the Norwich's main TRORC rep could not attend. Charlotte Metcalf asked if Francis went to all the TRORC meetings. Francis said that yes, he attends all meetings unless he has an unmovable conflict. After additional discussion, SB members agreed not to vote on the TRORC alternate representative appointment, and further agreed to ask the Town Manager to advertise the TRORC rep and alternate rep positions.

5. Consent Agenda. Brochu **moved** (2nd Arnold) to approve the consent agenda. **Motion passed unanimously (4 to 0; Langhus was not present for this vote).**

6. Town Manager Report. SB members agreed to move the Town Manager report to the end of the meeting.

7. Possible Gile Mtn. Parking Area Expansion. Durfee explained that there is a request by the Trails Committee to expand the parking lot for the Gile Mtn. trail. Bill Scavone suggested that the parking lot possibly be expanded in the direction of the kiosk, rather than in the proposed direction. Langhus **moved** (2nd Arnold) to approve the expansion of the parking area about 2,000 square feet at Gile Mountain. Nick Krembs, Trails Committee member, said that the Trails Committee (TC) has proposed the expansion to improve this valuable asset [Gile Mtn. trail]. Brochu asked if the TC had done any outreach to anyone regarding this project. Brochu asked what the Conservation Commission thinks of the proposed expansion. Krembs said that he doesn't know what they think of it, because there was no communication with the Conservation Commission. Krembs said that the current parking lot is not big enough, so people park on the road when the lot is full. Durfee said that the town offices have received complaints about noise, traffic speed, and people getting stuck. Police Chief Jennifer Frank said that the problems could possibly be solved with better signage making clear what the rules are concerning trail and parking lot use. Miriam Horwitz said that she agrees with Chief Frank's idea about signage. She thinks that trail traffic is increasing every year, and this parking lot expansion will not be enough to solve the problem during peak usage times. She would like no expansion until after signage has been installed. Linda Cook said that she wants the SB to hold public hearings to get all the information out on the table before making a decision. She talked about the need to limit large trucks going up the road and making sure there are adequate pull-offs. Bill Scavone said that he has had many problems with traffic on the road, and is concerned about the trail parking lot not being wide enough. Doug Wilberding said that the parking lot needs to be wider and the deed restrictions need to be observed and complied with. Ed Childs said that he lives next to

the parking lot. The only problems he has had have been with peak season traffic. He said the parking lot should be deeper or wider and there should be better signage. John Farrell said that he sees the issues as great views and limited parking. If the town expands the parking lot, it will still fill up and possibly draw more people, potentially adding to the problem. Creigh Moffatt said that the town needs to be creative with signs lower down on Turnpike to discourage drivers from going up and creating problems. Stan Teeter said that we should have signs alerting trucks about the locations of the places to turn around, so that trucks won't have to back down narrow roads they have mistakenly driven onto. SB members agreed to have the Town Manager further explore the possibility of expanding the parking lot, installing additional signage, and also have the TC reach out to the public for input. **Langhus withdrew his motion.**

8. a. Town Plan Update. Jaci Allen, Planning Commission (PC) Chair, thanked the PC members in attendance. Allen gave an overview of the materials the PC submitted for the SB packet, giving information about the process of developing a new Town Plan. Charlotte Metcalf said that her greatest concern is about public input, and expressed hope that there will be more opportunity for public participation.

b. Affordable Housing Draft Policy. Brian Loeb, PC member, introduced the topic of the draft policy and said their draft was a result of efforts to gauge the voters' desires in voting for an affordable housing fund. Loeb said that the proposed policy is a set of definitions that will guide the town's actions. Jeff Lubell said that the proposed policy is only a small part of the town's efforts toward affordable housing. Brochu **moved** (2nd Layton) to adopt the Affordable Housing Fund Policies and Criteria, as amended to delete the first sentence under the heading "Definitions".

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Selectboard Goals Session Follow-Up. Pepper said that he thinks the SB can use the next meeting to work on goals and not need to use John Carroll as a facilitator. After brief discussion, SB members agreed to proceed accordingly.

10. Future Meeting Agenda Items. Brochu said that she would like the following information to be included in the SB packet when the outdoor farmer's market solar installation is considered: abutters' input, input from the Co-op as landowners, who will receive the solar credit, the impact – if any – on the nearby community garden, notice to abutting landowners, what will the installation look like, and what do the residents in town think of the project.

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

- Appointments to TRORC
- Farmers Market Proposed Solar Project
- Town Manager Report
- Dartmouth College Campus Project – college planning staff to attend
- Union Negotiations Update
- Selectboard Goals Follow-Up

For the May 22nd meeting: Expanded Plastics Recycling
Shopping Bags Distribution

At 10:42 pm, Layton **moved** (2nd Arnold) to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on May 8, 2019

John Pepper
Selectboard Chair

Next Meeting – May 8, 2019 – Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM

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