

Town of North Yarmouth
Select Board
Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 18, 2022
Wescustogo Hall & North Yarmouth Community Center



Call to Order – Brian Sites, James Moulton, Austin Harrell, David Reed, and Paul Hodgetts. The interim Town Manager, Christopher Bolduc, was also present at the meeting. Chairperson Sites called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM.

Chairperson Sites made brief remarks regarding the move of the Old Town House at the beginning of the meeting.

Chairperson Sites notified the Board that the agenda has changed slightly, removing the Hazard Mitigation Plan off for consideration at a future meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – Chairperson Sites notified the Board that due to his absence at the last meeting, he would recuse himself. Selectperson Hodgetts moved to approve the minutes of January 4, 2022. Selectperson Reed seconded the motion. Discussion: none. **Vote: 3 Yes – 0 No – 2 Abstain. (Chairperson Sites and Selectperson Harrell)**

Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items – Chairperson Sites asked the interim Town Manager to report on the status of the brewpub discussion referenced under “Old Business”. The Town Manager reported that the owners of the formerly known Stone’s Café will be proposing only using the facility for a restaurant, not a microbrewery. Donna Palmer, Mountfort Road, commented on the history of the senior housing discussion in North Yarmouth. Ms. Palmer thanked Ben Grover for his work in establishing a new senior housing project in North Yarmouth. Linc Merrill, North Road, made comments regarding the agenda changing and a disparity in the due dates of the agenda request forms. Mr. Merrill asked the Select Board to ask the Planning Board to further review the Land Use Ordinance. Mr. Merrill asked if the interim Town Manager had a question regarding a change of use later down the line at Stone’s Café and if that would require the owners to go through site plan review. The Town Manager responded. Judy Potter, Walnut Hill Road, commented on the broadcasting quality of the last Planning Board meeting. Ms. Potter requested that the handouts for the Annual Town Meeting be available ten (10) days prior to the meeting. Anne Graham, Farms Edge Road, commented on the Select Board’s procedure for public comment and general rules of order. Mike Mallory, Walnut Hill Road, commented on the Planning Board’s Remote Participation Policy. Mr. Mallory also shared his concerns with how committees conducted business. Jeff Brown, Mountfort Road, shared comments regarding committee agendas, specifically the Planning Board. Ms. Potter inquired about the individual committee’s Remote Participation Policies. Ms. Potter requested documentation on any changes made by the committees on the Remote Participation Policy. Paul Whitmarsh, Wild Turkey Lane, commented on the Select Board creating a town-wide Zoom policy. Selectperson Reed stated that it should be discussed how committees should conduct Zoom meetings or when it’s appropriate.

Management Reports & Communications:

The Town Office Report can be found on the town’s website, www.northyarmouth.org.

The Board agreed to move their regular business meeting from March 15, 2022 to March 29, 2022.

Old Business:

Stone’s Café/Brew Pub Updates – Chairperson Sites recognized Rich Parenteau. Mr. Parenteau asked a question about site plan review for future consideration.

60-Day Comment Period – Chairperson Sites gave a presentation to the Board. Selectperson Reed commented on the appropriate place to include the Board’s code of conduct and recall provisions in the charter. There was a discussion between the Chairperson and the public. Selectperson Reed stated that there should be uniformity in how the committees meet. Chairperson Sites allowed further public comment. Mr. Parenteau made a comment on the presentation. Mr. Mallory inquired if the Board is ready to discuss a Town Council form of government. Ms. Palmer asked what the timeframe would be to bring changes to a future town meeting. Mr. Merrill commented that the Board should focus on the least complex items first. Jeff Brown suggested that the

Select Board include a provision to address when materials are posted for the boards. Paul Whitmarsh, Wild Turkey Lane, commented on how to improve other committee and board meetings. Steve Palmer asked for further clarification on the process of bringing items to town meeting. Ms. Graham asked the Board to consider the pros and cons of Town Meeting-Select Board-Town Manager form of government vs. Town Council-Town Manager form of government. Selectperson Reed elaborated on his reasons for supporting a Town Council form of government.

New Business:

Vacancy – Budget Committee – Chairperson Sites announced the open position on the committee. Selectperson Reed stated his support for Jay Fulton's application.

Referendum Vote Forum Date – Selectperson Reed suggested having a forum that allowed for both proponents and opponents present for discussion. Chairperson Sites recognized Mr. Merrill. Mr. Merrill responded that he was willing to attend and present at a forum, however, stated that he was not sure if the forum was necessary and was not sure who the opponents were to the petition. Selectperson Moulton made comments to the Board regarding other issues with the charter mentioned by a group of individuals. Mr. Palmer was recognized. Steve Palmer commented that he believes the public should have the opportunity to be heard and learn about the petition. Mr. Palmer stated that he did not feel there was enough time to consider the petition prior to an election. Chairperson Sites suggested Wednesday, March 9, 2022 as a date for a community forum. Mr. Whitmarsh was recognized. Mr. Whitmarsh commented on why a forum would be needed if a public hearing has already taken place. Chairperson Sites responded that he has heard from residents their concerns with passing items without public input. Furthermore, the Chairperson commented that the process requires a public hearing but added that he was offering another opportunity for residents who may have not been involved in the process prior. Selectperson Reed added that he felt it would be odd not to have a debate over a topic prior to a town meeting. Mr. Merrill requested another date for the forum. Selectperson Reed recommended Tuesday, March 1st, 2022. Selectperson Reed moved to set a forum on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Selectperson Harrell seconded the motion. Discussion: Selectperson Moulton inquired about the agenda items for the meeting. Chairperson Sites responded that the date was all that was being voted on. Selectperson Reed responded that the forum would be a two (2) hour discussion on just the petition language. **Vote: 5 Yes – 0 No.**

Accounts Payable – Chairperson Sites moved to approve accounts payable warrants 27, 28, & 29 in the amount of \$210,675.98. Selectperson Reed seconded the motion. Discussion: none. **Vote: 5 Yes – 0 No.**

Any Other Business – Selectperson Reed discussed public comment as a future discussion item to address committees and boards who do not typically allow public comment as an item on their agenda. Selectperson Hodgetts stated that he wanted to discuss Roberts Rules of Order and public comment at committee and board meetings at the next workshop. Selectperson Reed responded that there should be more discussion on if the Select Board is to mandate that all committees include public comment and what formats would be allowed. Selectperson Hodgetts wanted to discuss Zoom meetings with other boards and committees. Selectperson Hodgetts inquired about the status of Sharp's Field. Selectperson Harrell commented that each committee was allowed to adopt its own policy. The interim Town Manager responded that the Select Board adopted a policy that the committees would also adopt a similar policy. Selectperson Reed made further comments.

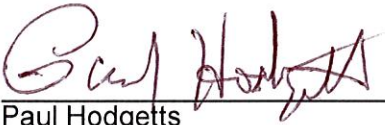
Adjournment – Selectperson Hodgetts moved to adjourn at approximately 8:30 PM. Selectperson Reed seconded. Discussion: none. **Vote: 5 Yes – 0 No.**

Prepared By: Draven Walker
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Select Board



Brian Sites, Chair

Austin Harrell

Paul Hodgetts

James Moulton, Vice Chair

David Reed