

Town of North Yarmouth  
Select Board  
Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
Wescustogo Hall & North Yarmouth Community Center



**Call to Order (1:36:37)** – Brian Sites, James Moulton, David Reed, and Paul Hodgetts were present. The Town Manager, Diane Barnes, was also present. Chairperson Sites called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Selectperson Reed moved to table Paul Napolitano's application to the Zoning Board of Appeals until the next meeting. Selectperson Hodgetts seconded. Discussion: none. **Vote: 4 Yes – 0 No.**

**Special Presentation (1:39:33)** – Matt Jacobson, Meadow Creek and representative of Summit Natural Gas, introduced Brian Foster, Lead Engineer at Summit Natural Gas, Sky Austin, Commercial Sales Leader, and Chase Jackson, Government Affairs. Mr. Jacobson along with his colleagues gave a presentation to the Board regarding their plans for expanding natural gas service to the Village Center District. More information can be found on the Town's website, [www.northyarmouth.org](http://www.northyarmouth.org).

Selectperson Hodgetts asked which side of the road the pipeline would be installed. The lead engineer responded that the pipeline would be on the opposite side of the road, referring to the sidewalk side. Selectperson Reed inquired about Summit Natural Gas's commitment to being environmentally mindful. Selectperson Moulton made similar inquiries adding the comment of the additional tax incentive to the Town for the completion of the project. Mr. Jacobson responded that the funding for projects similar to the one being proposed is funded by investors who receive tax credits for their contribution to the project. Selectperson Reed made comments regarding where the gas would be produced. Mr. Jacobson responded with various locations where the gas originates.

Chairperson Sites allowed public comment on the item. Ms. Potter, Walnut Hill Road, made comments supporting the project. Jay Fulton, New Gloucester Road, asked about the economic opportunities to North Yarmouth. Mr. Jacobson responded by summarizing his overall understanding of the benefits of natural gas development in the locations he's knowledgeable of. Mr. Foster discussed the longevity and reliability of the system. Paul Whitmarsh, Wild Turkey Lane, asked about the expansion of the proposed system. Mr. Jacobson discussed their future plan and the overall approval from nearby residents who have decided to utilize their service. Anne Graham, Farms Edge Road, commented on the future of methane production and use and made a comment supporting the project. Mr. Jacobson responded that they do have R&D projects to utilize hydrogen power produced by renewable energies.

Selectperson Hodgetts inquired on the start date. Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Foster projected the summer of 2022. Chairperson Sites recognized Mike Mallory, Walnut Hill Road. Mr. Mallory made inquiries on how far the project would extend and the price of installing and using natural gas. Ms. Austin and Mr. Jacobson responded.

The full conversation can be found on the Town's website, [www.northyarmouth.org](http://www.northyarmouth.org), or by requesting a video copy of the meeting at the Town Office.

**Announcements (2:10:54)** – Chairperson Sites read an email submitted by Katie Murphey, President of the North Yarmouth Historical Society.

Chairperson Sites read Selectperson Harrell's resignation letter. Chairperson Sites added that Selectperson Harrell's decision was based on new life changes and allowing enough time for another candidate to run for the open position. Chairperson Sites wished Mr. Harrell well.

**Consent Agenda (2:15:55)** – Chairperson Sites moved to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Selectperson Reed seconded the motion. Discussion: none. **Vote: 4 Yes – 0 No.**

**Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items (2:17:26)** – Judy Potter, Walnut Hill Road, inquired about the playground at the Community Center. Selectperson Reed responded that the Community Center Director was investigating grant funding. Ms. Potter asked if the Town would be receiving a refund from the solar panels.

Steve Palmer, Mountfort Road, made a comment regarding the previous meeting. Mr. Palmer requested that the Board review their policies for including agenda items during a meeting and appointing committee members.



Chairperson Sites responded that the Board does not have clear policies for appointing individuals to committees. Selectperson Reed made additional comments that he was working with staff to make some amendments regarding the Board's policies for appointments.

Diane Morrison, Browndog Drive, inquired on the M.S.A.D. 51 Board of Director's progress with the Sharp's Field Agreement. Selectperson Moulton explained that the Board was still reviewing the agreement.

### **Management Reports & Communications (2:23:14):**

Town Manager's Report – The Town Manager provided a verbal report to the Select Board on the following topics:

- FEMA COVID-19 Meeting – The Town Manager reported that the Town would receive \$15,000 for reimbursements from FEMA.
- Southern Maine Manager's Meeting – The Town Manager reported that Cumberland County would be changing to fiscal year, June – July, from calendar year. Furthermore, the Town Manager reported that the second round of American Rescue Plan funding would be available in June-July of 2022.
- The Town Manager reported that she is continuing to work with the auditor.
- The Town Manager reminded the Select Board and the public that taxes are due on March 15<sup>th</sup>; however, the office would be closed due to the election.

Chairperson Sites asked the Town Manager to publish a communication on the Town website to inform residents of the March 15, 2022 closure. Chairperson Sites discussed the Town Clerk's memo on election timelines (located on the Town's website, [www.northyarmouth.org](http://www.northyarmouth.org)).

Chairperson Sites recognized Paul Whitmarsh, Wild Turkey Lane, who inquired about the time frame for holding the election to address charter amendments. There was a discussion between Chairperson Sites and the Town Manager. Chairperson Sites commented that the Board needs more time to review any possible charter changes. The Town Manager clarified the election requirements.

Selectperson Hodgetts made a comment that he was never notified of the Living Well in North Yarmouth Public Hearing. Chairperson Sites and the Town Manager stated that each board and committee may adopt their own policies but stated that the Board can communicate their goals to all of the committees and boards. Selectperson Hodgetts requested that there be a room available for the public to attend. Chairperson Sites recognized Mr. Mallory who read section 1 M.R.S. § 403-B of Maine State Statue. Selectperson Reed and Chairperson Sites discussed the intent of the law further. Selectperson Hodgetts inquired further if a meeting room could be made available. Chairperson Sites stated that the Town Manager would look into the option of having a meeting room. The Town Manager did state that the technology was not available to have a hybrid meeting.

**Old Business** – None.

### **New Business:**

Economic Development & Sustainability Committee Charge (2:42:57) – Chairperson Sites read correspondence from the co-chairs of the Economic Development & Sustainability Committee. Selectperson Moulton made comments stating that the Board should focus on defining rural character and cleaning up the language. Chairperson Sites made comments supporting Selectperson Moulton's previous comments. Selectperson Reed stated that items should be brought forth to the townspeople for consideration. Chairperson Sites made comments supporting the committee to investigate how the community feels on various topics around development. Kit Maloney, Walnut Hill Road and Co-Chair of the Economic Development & Sustainability Committee shared comments on the current state of affairs of the committee. Kevin Robinson, Walnut Hill Road, stated that he felt the Board was not aware of its own direction. Chairperson Sites, Selectperson Moulton, and Selectperson Reed made comments disagreeing with Mr. Robinson's comments. Chairperson Sites summarized the conversation as the Board's purpose of the charge to EDSC was to define rural character to assist the Board on how to move forward. Ms. Maloney made final comments stating that the committee is interested in making further recommendations to the Select Board.

Economic Development & Sustainability Committee Proposed Bylaws Review (2:56:53) – Selectperson Reed moved to support and encourage EDSC to adopt the current draft of their bylaws, as presented. Discussion: Mr. Robinson asked for a response in writing. **Vote: 4 Yes – 0 No.**

Land Donation – Construction Aggregate, Inc. (Phase II) – Warrant Consideration (3:00:04): Chairperson Sites moved that the Select Board respond to Construction Aggregate's letter by placing the land donation of Lot 25 in Phase II of Village Center Estates on the April 30, 2022, Annual Town Meeting. Selectperson Reed seconded the motion. Discussion: Selectperson Reed commented that this was a kind donation. **Vote: 4 Yes – 0 No.**

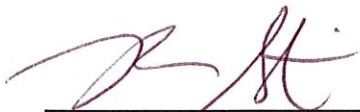
Treasurer's Disbursement Policy (3:00:43): Selectperson Hodgetts inquired on what the procedure was before. The Town Manager responded that going forward, she would like the Board to follow what's written in state statute. Selectperson Reed moved to approve the Treasurer's Disbursement Policy, as presented. Selectperson Moulton seconded the motion. Discussion: none. **Vote: 4 Yes – 0 No.**


**Any Other Business (3:04:11)** – Selectperson Hodgetts notified the public that absentee ballots were available and asked if the Town Manager could look into a backup for the video position. Selectperson Reed requested a discussion regarding brown tailed moth. Chairperson Sites asked if a board member would want to volunteer to attend an upcoming MMA workshop on brown-tailed moth, emerald ash borer, and vernal pools. Selectperson Reed volunteered his time. Selectperson Reed requested that the Board consider releasing an RFP for an Economic Consultant.


**Adjournment (3:07:35)** – Selectperson Reed moved to adjourn at 8:33 PM. Chairperson Sites seconded the motion. Discussion: none. **Vote: 4 Yes – 0 No.**


Prepared By: Draven Walker  
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Select Board

  
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Brian Sites, Chair

  
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David Reed

  
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James Moulton, Vice Chair

  
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Paul Hodgetts