



# TOWN OF NORTON

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

70 EAST MAIN STREET

MUNICIPAL CENTER, NORTON, MASS. 02766

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### BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

- I. **CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN:** The September 3, 2009 Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Mr. Giblin.

A. **Roll Call:** Chairman, Mr. Timothy Giblin; Messrs. Bradford Bramwell; Robert Kimball; Robert Salvo; and and Mrs. Mary Steele were present. Mr. James Purcell, Town Manager, was also present.

B. **Pledge of Allegiance**

### II. **WARRANTS AND MINUTES**

A. **Approve bills Warrant #13, dated September 3, 2009, in the amount of \$372,445.33**  
**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve bills Warrant #13, dated September 3, 2009, in the amount of \$372,445.33. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

B. **Approve Minutes** -

No Minutes were reviewed/approved.

### III. **LICENSES AND PERMITS**

1. **Request of Joseph A. Costa, Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans, Westcott-Houghton Chapter 56, N. Attleborough, MA 02760, for annual "Forget Me Not Drive", to be held September 24, 25, and 26, 2009; Rain-date September 27, 2009, approximately 9:00 AM through approximately 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, depending on coverage, at Roche Bros. Supermarket, 175 Mansfield Avenue**

Mr. Costa stated that all the money (100%) goes to the veterans and he has been involved with this for 31 years.

**MOTION was made by Mrs. Steele to approve Request of Joseph A. Costa, Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans, Westcott-Houghton Chapter 56, N. Attleborough, MA 02760, for annual "Forget Me Not Drive", to be held September 24, 25, and 26,**

2009; Rain-date September 27, 2009, approximately 9:00 AM through approximately 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, depending on coverage, at Roche Bros. Supermarket, 175 Mansfield Avenue, and to waive all application fees. Second by Mr. Bramwell. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

2. 7:30 P.M. - Application of Norton Parks & Recreation for Halloween Parade Permit to be held Sunday, October 25, 2009

See Motion to approve Application below.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Offices will be closed Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2009

Have a safe and happy Labor Day!

Mr. Kimball sent condolences to the family of Bob Burghart who passed away suddenly. He said Bob and his wife, Janice, were very involved with Town including the library and Norton Historical Society and new library and park.

#### **V. BUSINESS**

##### **A. NEW BUSINESS**

1. 7:10 P.M. - Conservation Agent, Jennifer Carlino, Re: Non-zoning Wetland Protection by-law

Ms. Carlino indicated this was being proposed at next Town Meeting and copy of proposed bylaw/documents were distributed to Board. Two informational meetings are planned for 9/17 and 9/24. She said this was a model bylaw and many towns do have a bylaw. She said they are taking currently policies and making a regulation. Bylaw would enable it to be clearer regarding guidelines, etc., and will help protect drinking water supply.

Mr. David Henry, Vice-chairman of Commission and Mr. Ron O'Reilly, Chairman, were also present with Ms. Carlino.

Mr. O'Reilly stated in the long-term this is for protection of Norton's water supply. The wetlands filter out a lot of contaminants. More than 50% of communities (cities/towns) have bylaws. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kimball inquired about Section 10-invisible barriers.

Ms. Carlino referenced the "no disturbance zone" and discussed. If necessary they

would knock on doors of residents and violation notice discussed.

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Mr. Giblin asked if rules/regs (section 2) were written?

Ms. Carlino said, no, they were not yet written.

Mr. Giblin commented on Section 9, "Wildlife Habitat Study".

Ms. Carlino said cost varies and would be clearly defined when needed (for a certain threshold).

Ms. Carlino said this was not written as a regulation yet; Preservation Commission's ability to ask for it and usually involves a large piece of land (streams, etc.); a large project.

2. 7:30 P.M. - Danielle Sicard Re: Halloween Parade

Ms. Sicard said this was the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> year for the Halloween parade and will be held Oct. 25 at 12 noon (from Attleboro/Norton line to St. Mary's Parish Center).

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to approve the application of Norton Parks & Recreation for Halloween Parade to be held Sunday, October 25, 2009, starting at 12 noon from Attleboro/Norton line to finish at St. Mary's Parish Center, and to waive all associated fees. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Kimball thanked Ms. Sicard for assisting Town with parade.

Mrs. Steele also thanked Ms. Sicard for her efforts and she said Town almost did not have this Halloween parade which would have been disappointing.

Mrs. Steele said the Recreation Commission needs some new members, or if residents are only interested in assisting with Halloween Parade, they should step forward and/or contact Town Hall.

Ms. Sicard said regarding the weekend of parade, Brian Faria came before Board of Selectmen and she asked him to come here today again to discuss "Haunted Happenings" at Camp Finberg. It will be held Friday and Saturday night from 6-10 p.m. (weekend of parade) and planned are wood tours; bon fire; painting pumpkins, and lots of other activities. She thanked Mr. Faria and Advisory Committee. She said they are looking for businesses to step up and help them (there are YMCA memberships and scholarships to those who cannot afford it).

Mr. Faria said ideas for Haunted Happenings are endless and need to plan parking, various activities (witches in costumes; kids and adults activities and looking for

volunteers to start staffing crew).

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Mr. Giblin stated he would send an e-mail to Dr. Ansay also as there is a volunteer program now at Norton High School.

Ms. Sicard said she spoke to Mr. Dewar from high school also and said more info can be obtained on website at "HauntedHappenings@NortonYMCA.org".

Mr. Giblin said he could contribute orange-colored paper to advertise this.

Mr. Kimball said Wheaton would be another great idea to get them involved as well as the entire school system.

3. Review Fall October 5, 2009 Annual Town Meeting "Draft" Warrant

Mr. Purcell stated this was a very rough draft with some repeat articles and some which are unfamiliar to Board. Mr. Purcell reviewed articles with Board.

Mr. Purcell spoke of information technology director need and an attempt to put in and said the current four hours a week was not helpful enough. There is a need to consider for some portion of this fiscal year.

Articles 14 and 15: Handouts distributed and four year summary of hotel tax at mid-\$40K range, so 4-6% is a net \$22K.

Mr. Purcell said Mrs. Steele asked him to show what area cities and towns are doing with this. Easton has meals tax on town meeting warrant; Foxboro meals tax was defeated and room tax passed by a narrow margin. Middleboro voted room tax but not meal tax. Seekonk has taken no position yet.

Attachment A gives Board idea when voting takes place. Deadline for second quarter has expired (8/31); option to pick it up in springtime. It is up to Board of Selectmen and is very topical so placeholders are made. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Giblin asked how does Town know how much money is being received from state regarding tax issue?

Mr. Kimball said meal tax has an impact on residents of communities. Rooms tax has no impact on immediate population. Mr. Kimball said he was opposed to meals tax and needs to cut back where they can. Three new businesses are opening up in Town and can take another look at meals tax though. He would like to consider taking meals tax off the warrant.

Mr. Giblin said a lot of local businesses are in Town and want to promote new

businesses. People are less likely to go to new business with added tax. He will

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not support meals tax at all as it is an extra burden on people and businesses in Town. He would recommend to take article off town meeting warrant and would like to take a look at hotel tax.

Mrs. Steele agreed with Mr. Giblin and Mr. Kimball. If not approval of local excise tax will Town be penalized in future?

Mr. Giblin said it could increase room tax and could tell state Norton is trying. More customers to Norton could be their sales pitch if no increase in meals tax.

Mr. Purcell stated Governor Patrick put this on table; will we be penalized? When discussing F011 local aid, yes, he thinks Town would be penalized. Outlook for F011 is a difficult F011 budget. If we say do better for us in local aide the state could turn around and say "what have you done as a town?" He agreed on meals tax. Hotel tax needs to show some demonstration what we've done as a town. Mr. Purcell said he does not like talking policy usually.

Mr. Salvo said Town must be getting something out of this; he thought they were missing something.

Mr. Bramwell said hotel tax he had no problem with. He had an issue with the meals tax, especially with not all towns/cities being on board. In the future, it could be "thrown in our face" by the state though.

Mr. Kimball said he was not sure if prepared meals and grocery stores would fall under this category?

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to remove Article 14 from Town Meeting Warrant. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to leave Article 15 on Town Meeting Warrant for further discussion. Second by Mr. Salvo. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.**

## **B. OLD BUSINESS**

## **C. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

It was noted Mr. Donald McNeil resigned from Recreation Commission. Residents should call Board of Selectmen's office if interested in becoming a member of this Commission.

## **VI. SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND MAIL**

Mr. Salvo said he was told final paving to be done Tuesday of next week. They are one week behind in

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schedule which is not too bad, considering the weather, etc.

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**VIII. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

1. Health Agent Leon Dumont Re: Flu Clinics

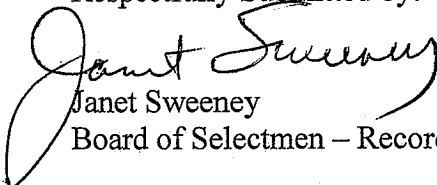
**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Kimball to Adjourn at 8:45p.m. Second by Mrs. Steele. Vote: UNANIMOUS. MOTION CARRIES.**

**XI. SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Janet Sweeney

Board of Selectmen – Recording Secretary