

TOWN OF NORTON
SELECT BOARD
MUNICIPAL CENTER
70 EAST MAIN STREET
NORTON, MA 02766

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Telephone (508) 285-0210; Facsimile (508) 285-0297

**Select Board
Emergency Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2024**

Call to Order by Chair

The January 12, 2024 emergency meeting of the Norton Select Board was held in the Second Floor Meeting Room of the Norton Municipal Center, 70 East Main Street, Norton, MA 02766 and was called to order at 11:30 A.M. by Mr. Kevin Snyder, Chair. Members present: Mr. Steven Hornsby and Mr. Alec Rich, III.

Also in attendance: Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager; Christian Zahner, Board of Health Agent; Nicholas Iafrate, Building Commissioner; Mr. Jared Ferrara, Highway Superintendent; Shawn Simmons, Chief of Fire; Jason Robbins, Deputy Fire Chief; Mr. Raymond Cord of Norton Emergency Management Agency (NEMA); and John Thomas, Conservation Agent.

New Business

Meeting to Discuss Impending Storm Preparations.

Michael Yunits, Town Manager addresses the major flooding at Barrows Ct. stating that the Fire Department was on-site and pumped over 200,000 gallons of water from the street. However, due to saturated grounds there was little relief for the residents as the water could not infiltrate the ground. Solutions for the flooding were discussed at the meeting.

Short term Solutions:

- The Conservation Director/Storm Water Agent, Highway Superintendent and Deputy Chief will investigate the river downstream of the Barrowsville Dam today. They will be looking at all culverts to make sure they are working properly and there is no backup.
- The Conservation Director/Storm Water Agent will raise the gate at the Chartley Dam to restrict the flow of water from Chartley Pond to the Wading River below the pond.
- The Conservation Director/Storm Water Agent will contact Dam Safety to let them know we have an unresponsive party that owns the dam (Barrows Street LLC Owner of 138 Barrows St.) and see what we can do to lower the dam control gate.

Long Term Solutions:

- Speak with Town counsel about any emergency powers that may be used to access Barrowsville dam in a storm event with substantial flooding. Discuss with counsel who the legal owner of the dam is and what maintenance is required by the owner.
- Contact owner/s of Barrowsville Dam
- Look into the possibility of removing the Barrowsville Dam. Any work done to the dam would need a watershed survey and a certified engineer, seek funding from DER Culvert Replacement

Program. The select board mentioned possibly contacting State Representatives for additional funding opportunities.

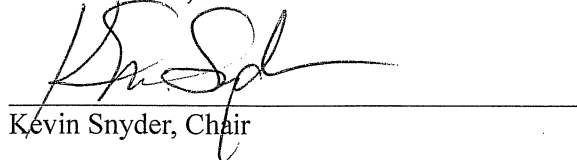
- Discuss with neighboring communities their hazard mitigation plans, as well as setting up a point of contact to let the Town know if any nearby towns plan to release water if/when they reach capacity.
- Discuss with Taunton their past flooding issues and how they were resolved.
- Further discussion on how Barrowsville Dam would be removed and what actions would need to be taken to ensure no abutters are affected as well as making sure the flooding issues are addressed.
- Currently Chartley Pond is almost full to capacity but there was discussion on the potential for Chartley pond to be used for more flood storage.

MOTION was made by Mr. Hornsby to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 12:22 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Rich. Vote: Unanimous. MOTION CARRIES.

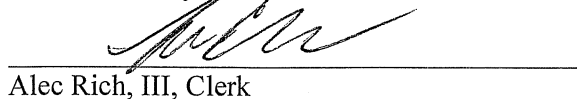
Respectfully Submitted by:

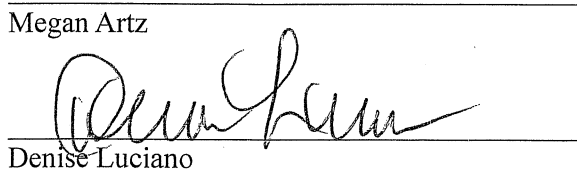

Megan Harrop


**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2024**


Kevin Snyder, Chair


Steven Hornsby, Vice-Chair


Alec Rich, III, Clerk


Megan Artz


Denise Luciano

Minutes Approved by Board on: February 1, 2024