

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
INTERVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES – August 16, 2021**

5:55 p.m. - Introduction to Remote Meeting

Selectman Rutan stated that this Open Meeting of the Board of Selectmen Interview Subcommittee was being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of June 16, 2021, an Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency and that all members of the Board of Selectmen Interview Subcommittee are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

Selectman Rutan noted that the Order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. She added that ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. She noted that this meeting will be livestreamed, but will not allow for Public Comment. She indicated the various ways that the public may view this meeting as listed on the posted agenda.

Selectman Rutan stated that any votes taken this evening will be by roll call vote. She confirmed that the following persons were remotely present and could be heard.

Board of Selectmen Interview Subcommittee

T. Scott Rogers

Leslie Rutan

**INTERVIEWS FOR THE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Remotely present:

Selectman Leslie Rutan

Selectman Scott Rogers

Open Space Committee Chair John Campbell

Applicant – William Pierce

Applicant – Jeanine Vitale (was not present for her interview)

William Pierce

Mr. Pierce noted that he has been a Northborough resident for 6 years. He is looking to volunteer since he recently completed his Bachelors and Masters degrees and has more free time. He has applied to 4 Boards and Committees, one of which is the Open Space Committee. He uses many of trails in town and the use and maintenance of open space is very important to him. He is a member of the Northborough Extended Day Program (NEDP) and a Soccer Coach here in Northborough. He also served on the Home-Owners Association in Marlborough and is familiar with Board processes, as well as reading maps, drawings and overlays. He read the 2020 Open Space Assessment and shared his interest in the need for additional sidewalks in the industrial and residential areas of Whitney Street, which is where he lives. He would also support a Dog Park in Town. He added that he has watched some of the Planning Board and Selectmen's Meetings, but has not had a chance to watch an Open Space Meeting. He has also had the opportunity to review the Master Plan.

Open Space Committee Chair John Campbell reviewed the scope of the Open Space Committee and the typical meeting schedule. He added that there is a Trails Committee, of which a member of the Open Space Committee serves on. The Trails Committee is more active with the use and maintenance of the trails.

Mr. Pierce shared that he was recently appointed to the Municipal Code & Bylaw Committee. He also applied to the Board of Library Trustees and the Earthworks Board. Mr. Campbell added that the Open Space Committee consists of one member each from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Board of Selectmen and six at-large members.

Selectman Rutan explained that there are two applicants for one opening on the Open Space Committee. Following tonight's interviews the Interview Committee will discuss and vote on their recommendation for appointments for the Board of Selectmen's consideration at their meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **DELIBERATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT**

Selectman Rogers noted that Jeanine Vitale was not present for her interview, adding that this is the second time she missed an interview without any direct communication. He is hesitant to move forward with a recommendation for appointment not knowing if she is still interested in the Open Space Committee.

Selectman Rutan is comfortable making the assumption that she is no longer interested, noting that she missed her interview for the Historic District Commission without any direct communication and then withdrew her application when the Historic District Commission Chair followed up with her. Selectman Rogers added that Ms. Vitale has a pending recommendation for appointment to the Cultural Council. Selectmen Rutan and Rogers agreed that there are other Board and Committee openings that Ms. Vitale would have the opportunity to apply if she is interested in doing so.

Mr. Campbell noted that looking at both applications, it seems that Mr. Pierce has more focused interest in open space and Ms. Vitale's skills and interests fall more with cultural affairs. Considering that Ms. Vitale has a pending recommendation for appointment to the Cultural Council, along with Mr. Pierce's interest in open space, he would be pleased to have Mr. Pierce join the Open Space Committee. Selectmen Rutan and Rogers agreed that Mr. Pierce would be an asset to the Committee considering his enthusiasm to serve and his interest in open space related things.

Selectman Rogers moved the Subcommittee vote to recommend William Pierce for appointment to the Open Space Committee for a term to expire on April 30, 2024 at the August 23, 2021 Selectmen's Meeting; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Selectman Rogers	"aye"
Selectman Rutan	"aye"

**ADJOURNMENT**

Selectman Rogers moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; the roll call was taken as follows:

Selectman Rogers     “aye”

Selectman Rutan     “aye”

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell  
Executive Assistant to the  
Board of Selectmen

Documents used during meeting:

1. August 16, 2021 Meeting Agenda
2. Applications to the Open Space Committee