

PBCC talk Town Hall renovation

Matt MacDonald
Staff Reporter

The Permanent Building Construction Committee met on Thursday, Dec. 21 to open negotiations for an architectural design contract with McKinley Kalsow & Associates (MK & A) regarding the renovation currently being planned for a portion of Town Hall.

The meeting stretched almost two hours and saw 11 participants crammed around the conference table in Room 11, going over the cost estimate for the job in detail.

From the outset, MK & A President Wendall Kalsow was peppered with questions and spent the majority of his time either explaining or defending his numbers and rationale for the contract.

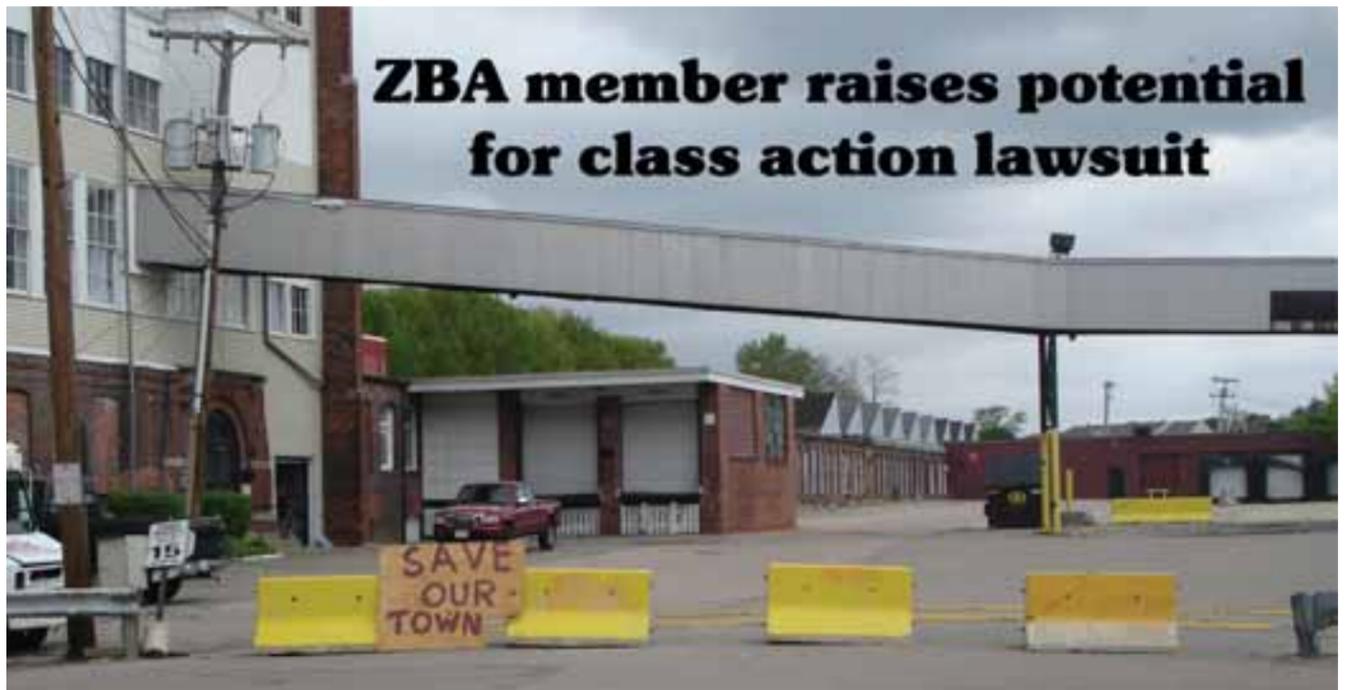
The underlying theme of the negotiation concerned the many potential unknowns involved in undertaking a construction project for a building as old as Town Hall, constructed in 1926.

Two of Kalsow's key cost estimate assumptions were the focus of much discussion and concern.

The first was that total renovation expenses would come in below the 30 percent threshold given by the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB).

Under this guideline, which deals with handicapped accessibility, if the cost of construction work on an existing building totals less than 30 per-

Town Hall renovation
Continued on page 4



The south entrance of the shuttered Plimpton Press. The Avalon 40B development scheduled to go there has been the cause of some dispute since its approval last fall.

FILE PHOTO

Confusion and misrepresentation alleged by ZBA email

Matt MacDonald
Staff Reporter

In the latest in the growing line of 40B development issues that have been bubbling up since the Board of Selectmen's Sept. 19 announcement of the Forbes Hill and Avalon Bay settlement, a copy of an email sent by Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) member Tom Brady to Town Clerk Tom McQuaid with the subject line "Avalon Bay 40B" has entered the possession of the Record.

In an email dated Nov. 5, 2017, Brady spells out his concerns regarding the ZBA's handling of the long, convoluted, and contentious Norwood Avalon, Inc. comprehensive permit application process.

"The comprehensive permit for the Avalon Bay project was never voted on (ratified) by the Zoning Board of Appeals," Brady starts off before naming names. "This fact is agreed upon by myself and fellow members Pat Mulvehill, Jack Perry and alternate Board member Scott Murphy, who sat in because of a conflict of interest with member Barbara Kinter."

Continuing, Brady expresses his opinion to McQuaid that "the Board was misled, whether intentionally or unintentionally" by Town Counsel Karis North at a May 16, 2017 executive session in which she stated – as quoted by Brady – that "the best thing we could do moving forward is vote to negotiate settlement so that we could then fight the Davis-Marcus project tooth and nail," while adding that North now denies having

made that statement "even though four out of five members remember the statement being made."

According to Brady, the two votes taken by the ZBA in that session were to "discuss settlement" and then to "direct Karis North to enter negotiation with Avalon Bay to settle the case with a reduction in the number of units from 218 to 198." Both passed 4-1, with Brady opposed.

There were two subsequent executive sessions – as related by Brady in his next paragraph – in which North presented the ZBA with a draft comprehensive permit "that had multiple waivers that the Board had never heard of or discussed."

On both dates, North asked for the ZBA

Avalon

Continued on page 6

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ZBA agrees porch can stay, with some modification

Matt MacDonald
Staff Reporter

The Zoning Board of Appeal met on Tuesday evening, Dec. 19 in Room 12 of Town Hall.

On its agenda were two hearings. Tom Brady was absent and Paul Eysie filled in.

The first hearing of the night concerned an application for a special permit for a deck at 32 Cross St.

The porch, which had already been built prior to the special permit application, was built 5.7 feet from the side setback, one foot closer than the original porch, which had been built 6.7 feet in.

At issue was the homeowner having constructed the new deck without first pulling the permit. His explanation was that, as an electrician, he had five days from the start of a job to pull a permit and that he had thought that this was also the case with building permits.

The homeowner had, in fact, been prompted by a visit from the Town Building Inspector to go to Town Hall to get the paperwork started which, ultimately, had brought him before the ZBA.

Hearing his case, Patrick Mulvehill cited a couple of prior instances where unpermitted work had been done – including the pouring of a foundation – and then had not been allowed to proceed, despite similar claims of ignorance of the rule.

“How do we say no to them and yes to this application?” Mulvehill said. “It’s hard, because I know he didn’t do it on purpose. But at the end of the day, if I was one of those two fellows – and we said yes to this applicant – I would have a hair across my you know what, saying why did I get said no to and he got said yes to.”

Both John Perry and Barbara Kinter were in agreement with Mulvehill.

Paul Eysie, on the other hand, had a different opinion.

“The porch was already there for all these years,” Eysie said. “I’m not saying that the way he handled it was the right way; it was the wrong way. But I’m just saying, because it was so insignificant, I would probably have to disagree with the rest of the members of the Board and allow it to go through because every case is one by one, in my opinion.”

Perry, who had been in agreement with Mulvehill, was somewhat swayed by Eysie.

“I kind of agree with Paul in what he’s saying, and I also agree with [Mulvehill],” Perry said. “I mean, we have our by-laws, and how far do we stretch it if someone does not conform to it? Is 2 feet okay? Is 3 feet okay? You know, what’s the denominator?”

Riley put forward the idea to return the porch to its original footprint, which would involve bringing it in 1 foot from the side setback.

“That’s the suggestion that I have to put out there,” Riley said. “We’re trying to find some way to do something for this gentleman without getting into the situation where we simply become the place that people can just automatically come to and, whatever they didn’t do, it’s okay. They can come here and we’ll just take care of it.”

This was an idea that the rest of the Board was in consensus with, and the motion to grant the special with that condition was approved unanimously.

The other hearing of the evening concerned a variance

ZBA

Continued on page 6

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Norwood Police Department Chief Bill Brooks accepted the Harold Murphy Honor – presented by Murphy himself (in front of the Christmas tree), the only other recipient of the award. The statue was given at the FBI National Academy Associates of New England's Christmas party.

COURTESY PHOTO

NPD Chief Brooks honored with FBI Academy award

Matt MacDonald
Staff Reporter

On Dec. 5, Police Chief Bill Brooks was presented with the Harold Murphy Honor by the New England Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates (NAA).

He received this award in recognition of his outstanding professional accomplishments, as well as in recognition of his support, participation, and leadership within the organization.

Chief Brooks is only the second person to receive this award, the first being its namesake, retired Cambridge Police Superintendent Harold Murphy.

It was, in fact, Murphy who presented the bust in his image to the Chief at the New England Chapter's annual Christmas party in Burlington, Mass.

Brooks is a 1993 graduate of the FBI's National Academy program for command level police officers, which is a comprehensive three-month course offered by the Bureau in Quantico, Va.

Since graduating, he has remained very involved in the NAA, handling orientations for officers entering the program, serving as New England Chapter President, and chairing the NAA's 2010 National Conference, which was held in Boston

that year.

"So it's been a big part of my career. I've gotten a lot more out of the Academy than they ever got out of me," Brooks said after listing his different positions in it through the years.

In addition to that – and his regular job – the Chief remains involved with a number of other law enforcement betterment programs, including the Innocence Project, in which he speaks to police groups around the country about methods they can use to diminish the likelihood of wrongful convictions.

Closer to home, New England Chapter Secretary/Treasurer – and Dover Police Chief – Peter McGowan had this to say in relation to his ongoing influence in the law enforcement community.

"I don't think there's a police officer in this state who hasn't been affected directly or indirectly by Chief Brooks for all he's done in our profession," McGowan said.

Thinking back on his experience at Quantico, Brooks touched on a handful of different things that he got out of it; from the college level courses taught by FBI special agents, to the opportunity to compare notes with classmates from around the country – including a sheriff from a six officer de-

partment in Montana and a lieutenant from the 35,000 officer NYPD – to the fact that he had to drop 40 pounds in order to qualify for the program.

"It was just a wonderful experience," Brooks said. "A great professional experience for me."

But when asked what his biggest take away from it was, Brooks mentioned something different.

"The central message at the Academy that they keep telling you is that your career and your life needs to be a blend: that there need to be equal parts family and work and recreation, and that you don't ever want one to overtake another; that you al-

Brooks

Continued on page 4

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OPINION

The ends don't justify these means

In May of 2014, Town Meeting (TM) by a vote of 93-70, failed to approve a 40R application of the former Plimpton Press site (Avalon Bay) which would have allowed 238 units made up of 50 condos and 188 apartments. Though TM was in favor of the application by a majority, the vote failed to achieve the required two-thirds majority for zoning changes.

This newspaper wrote in favor of the proposal, fearing the potential by developers to file a 40B application with the state which would allow them to bypass many local zoning codes and essentially wipe out any voice Norwood would have in the development process, which is ultimately what happened. We, as is sometimes the case, disagreed with TM's decision but respected the process by which the decision was reached. It is quite obvious now that others did not.

It is this newspaper's opinion that there has been a concerted effort by some in authority to thwart the vote of Town Meeting and spur the development of the former Plimpton Press, using the fact that the majority of TM wanted to see the site developed as justification of their actions. Though the end result may be what the majority of residents possibly want – the development of a site currently in disrepair and a blight on the Town's landscape – the means by which this development will take place should have every resident outraged.

As our story on Page One illustrates, one member of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) had the courage to unequivocally state on the record that no vote was ever taken by his board to ratify the proposed Avalon Bay 40B application of the Plimpton site, in a memo to Norwood's Town Clerk and Accountant. ZBA member Tom Brady states in the email that the ZBA was misled by Town Counsel Karis North in what they were voting on and, though uncorroborated, three other ZBA members agree with him.

Two of the members Brady references, Jack Perry and Scott Murphy, didn't have the guts to return calls for comment. A third, Patrick Mulvehill, was cautious in his comments and made sure not to throw anyone under the bus, but admitted he didn't agree with the process and expressed disappointment in the Board of Selectmen.

Some may suggest that Brady has an axe to grind with ZBA Chairman Philip Riley. We don't agree. If Perry and Murphy had stood up and said Brady misrepresented them, that would be evidence to suggest it is personal with Brady. They didn't, and this speaks volumes. This newspaper believes he is simply fed up with a process by which the Board of Selectmen have manipulated the situation to the point where the Town may face legal repercussions should some residents decide to file the class action lawsuit he alludes to in his email. And should that happen, we have no doubt all of the behind-the-scenes maneuverings will come out in the wash. And if you don't think it was behind the scenes, has anyone attended a public meeting on the Plimpton Press site since 2014? When was the last time a project of this magnitude was approved without any public input?

At a minimum, perhaps TM should establish a legal audit of the proceedings leading up to the decisions rendered on Forbes Hill and Avalon Bay. Why? Well the Town is now \$13 million poorer, not including legal fees and interest on loans and, including Upland Woods, will have over 500 more rental units than it had a decade ago.

The irony is that the likelihood of stopping the Plimpton Press development was small given that Norwood failed at every level

Opinion

Continued on page 6

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Brooks continued from page 3

ways want to make time for everything and make it a blend," he said.

Maintaining that blend, as he explained it, involves getting up at 5 a.m. to hit the gym, typically putting in around 10 hours a day at the office, spending time with his family, and going to bed at 10 p.m.

"I think I've got it down now," Brooks responded when asked if it was a challenge. "I don't know if it's a struggle, but it's something you have to pay attention to."

When it was suggested that getting out of bed at 5 a.m. to go to the gym sounded like a struggle unto itself, he replied

without hesitation, "No, it's not. It's just scheduling."

The Honor itself – physically represented by a bust in Harold Murphy's image – was presented by the man himself, who Chief McGowan described as "everybody's role model" and who Brooks considers a mentor and close friend.

As only the second recipient of the New England Chapter's de facto lifetime achievement award, there is some inevitable reflection that goes along with it.

"I'll have been a cop for 41 years in February and, for me, the pride is not in any individual achievements I've made

along the way," Brooks said. "It's really the way the Department functions, and the officers: the work they do day to day. That's what I get the most satisfaction from."

"So, to get the award is obviously nice. I'm obviously honored by that – especially named after Harold. And, as I look back, it's been a wonderful career of 41 years... and I'm not going anywhere yet: I'll be around for another couple of years before mandatory retirement hits. But it's been a wonderful career and a great opportunity to serve the public, and that's what does it for me."

Town Hall renovation continued from page 1

cent of that building's assessed value, access points to the building are not required to be upgraded to meet current compliance regulations.

However, if the total cost of the project exceeds that 30 percent limit, it can, as Kalsow said in response to questioning, "trigger substantial upgrades throughout the building."

This led to further questions from the Committee, to which Kalsow would not give a design estimate, citing that building accessibility had been outside the scope of work that MK & A had, to that point, prepared for.

Kalsow did, however, speak in general terms, acknowledging that the building does have a lot of inaccessible entrances.

"It's a very substantial portion if you cross that 30 percent and have to go for a wholesale upgrade," Kalsow said. "You can get reasonable variances... They want to meet you halfway. They want to provide good, reasonable access, but there are limitations (for towns) in terms of funds and everything else."

Kalsow's assumption and its consequential absence of a cost estimate did little to reassure the Committee.

"I am uncomfortable with Assumption 2 (the 30 percent assumption) and exclusion for all MAAB variances both being in here because we know that there are additional

costs," Chris Eberly said. "We know that we're either going to be over the threshold and have additional work or we're going to have variances, and those are both additional changes (to the design fee)."

He ultimately did give a number of between \$5,000 and \$7,000 for a preliminary accessibility survey for the building, which he agreed to add into MK & A's scope of services.

Kalsow's first assumption – that a sprinkler system would not be required for Town Hall – was dismissed almost out of hand by Committee Chair Francis Hopcroft.

Taking the inclusion of adding a new system into consideration, along with all that it would entail, including the piping of the Tower, led Kalsow to comment that the additional cost might force a reassessment of construction plans, leading Eberly to reiterate his earlier point.

"All the more reason to know the cost of it upfront: this project is full of these types of issues," Eberly said.

In addition to Kalsow having to field questions about the design portion of the project, Hopcroft was also answering his fair share of them about going to the May Town Meeting with an incomplete set of drawings and a high estimate for the re-

we're ready to make a reasonable presentation – with a reasonable number – in May, we should do it. If we're not, we can always pull the article or postpone it."

Callahan made his disagreement official about 40 minutes later, touching again on unknowns.

"I can't support this," he said. "I can't support it. Not because of the cost... But I cannot support going into the Town Meeting with an unknown of \$17,000 of work... To go before them and ask for a cost to do a job based on design development drawings, including the most accurate assessment we can get – estimate wise – I think is a very dangerous piece of business."

Hopcroft, sticking with his plan in responding to both Callahan and Eberly concerns with those unknowns, explained how the completion of MK & A's design development would provide a natural break going into Town Meeting, as well as a much more accurate estimate.

"We're going to know at that point – pretty damn well – what the rest of these costs are going to be," Hopcroft said. "We can add them in at that point. We don't need to know them today to move forward, because we can't know them today and we have to move forward."

The next PBCC meeting is scheduled for tonight, Jan. 4.

SENIOR NEWS

ARTS & CRAFTS: Offered every first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.

BASIC COMPUTER COURSE: A four-part basic computer course is frequently offered to those who wish to learn how to use a computer. Sign-up at the front desk. New class will be announced soon.

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BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC: Walpole VNA will be available for blood pressure screen-

ing on the first Wednesday of each month. Ellis Nursing Home will offer blood pressure screening on the second Wednesday of each month. The Walpole VNA will provide blood pressure screening on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Walpole VNA on the fifth.

BOOK CLUB: Our next Book Club will be meeting on Jan. 22 at 10 a.m.

BRIDGE: Our Bridge Club meets on Thursdays at 9 a.m., in the Library. The Tuesday group has been canceled.

COMPUTER CLUB: The Computer Club

Seniors

Continued on page 5

Seniors *continued from page 4*

meets every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

CRIBBAGE: Our seniors meet every Monday at noon to play cribbage.

DIGITAL PHOTO ORGANIZATION & EDITING: will take place the first and third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

EXCEL CLASSES: Excel classes will resume in September. Please sign up.

FOOT DOCTOR: Dr. Michael Mitri is scheduled to be here on Jan. 12, \$35.00 charge-call to schedule an appointment.

FRIENDS EVENING DANCE: Jan. 19 from 7 to 10 p.m. featuring Johnny Rampino.

GLEE CLUB: Glee Club meets every Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. New members welcome!

HANDCRAFTERS: Handcrafters meet every Monday from 1 to 3 p.m.

HEARING SOLUTIONS: Hearing Aide clinic on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 11:30 a.m.

LEARN TO PLAY MAH JONG -Thursday and Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

LINE DANCE: Classes are held each Tuesday. Class will be held from 1 to 2 p.m.

MAH JONG: Mah Jong players meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 a.m. to noon.

MANICURES: Jan. 26, 2018- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MASSAGE THERAPIST: Karen Tracy is here on the first Monday of each month. Please sign up at front desk. Massages are \$30.00 for half an hour.

NORWOOD RETIRED MEN'S CLUB: The Board of Directors meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. The Club Membership meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Norwood Elks Lodge, at 10 a.m.

SCRABBLE: Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. Come and join us for a game.

SHINE: Our SHINE Counselor, Carole, is here to help you with your medical insurance needs on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call 781-762-1201 for an appointment.

TAPDANCE: Thursdays at 11:15 a.m. all levels are welcome and encouraged to join the fun.

TRIAD: Monday, Jan. 22 at 1 p.m. at Milestones Realty.

WATER COLOR: The next session is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 11 at 9 a.m. Payment of \$20.00 must be made at time of sign up.

WAXING: Monday, Jan. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon.

WHIST: Whist players meet on Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m. in the library.

WHIST PARTY: Whist parties will be held on the fourth Friday of each month 12:45 to 3 p.m.

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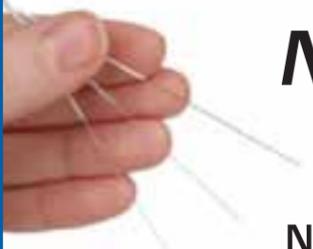
With the project already six to eight months behind schedule by Hopcroft's estimate, he's looking to avoid putting it off until fiscal year

2020.

Responding to Ted Callahan's suggestion to hold off on the project until the Special Town Meeting in November, Hopcroft laid out his

strategy.

"If we get to Town Meeting and we're not prepared to make a presentation, then I would withdraw the Article," Hopcroft said. "I think if



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Opinion

continued from page 4

to meet the legal thresholds established by the state to oppose 40B applications, and many think the Town's homework was fatally flawed. However, this project could have been used as a tool to stop the now infamous Forbes Hill extortion of millions from the Town if everything had been handled properly. It wasn't and Norwood will be paying for this mistake for at least a decade. Two or three years from now parents will be expressing outrage when the School Committee announces they are forced to make drastic cuts in curriculum and extracurricular activities. At least you won't have to question why.

Avalon continued from page 1

to vote on it, and in both cases she was refused, with Brady concluding the paragraph by stating, "That was the last we heard from Town Counsel Karis North regarding Avalon Bay. At no point was a comprehensive vote taken."

Brady went on to describe being made aware of Avalon's comprehensive permit approval in an Oct. 14 telephone conversation with Record Editor Dennis Cawley (NOTE: This call took place on Oct. 27), after which he "reached out to the three other Board members present at all of the Avalon hearings who shared my sentiments in the fact that this permit was unfinished and had never been

ratified."

Brady goes on to relate a second, Oct. 17 telephone call between Chairman Philip Riley and Patrick Mulvehill in which he quotes Riley – "in a state of confusion" – asking, "Did we or did we not vote on this permit for Avalon Bay?"

He describes Mulvehill as "promptly setting the record straight with him," before ironically commenting on Riley's memory miraculously returning as he recalled "verbatim" for a Record interview what "he felt took place in the executive session on May 16, some five months earlier."

In closing, Brady expressed his own confusion ("I can't fig-

ure out what's going on here or who's involved in what") and distrust ("I have little faith in Karis North going forward...") in the events having to do with the Avalon permit, while also raising a warning to McQuaid:

"I feel that the abutters, who are vigorously opposed to this project, now have ample information and opportunity to take class action against the Town and, as a Board member, I'm unsure how to proceed from here... We have a problem here and I didn't want to see you or any Town official blindsided by this."

The authenticity of Brady's correspondence was confirmed by Town Clerk Tom McQuaid, who stated in a phone conversation that – upon its receipt – he had forwarded it to Town Counsel.

Tom Brady – reached by phone – expressed some surprise at his letter reaching the Record and was unwilling to comment further on what he had written.

Unsuccessful attempts were made to reach Board members John Perry and Scott Murphy. Matthew MacDonald

Patrick Mulvehill, while essentially deferring to Chairman Riley on the matter, also referred to the formal response – as prepared by Karis North – to Brian Hardiman's open meeting complaint (appearing in the Letters to the Editor section of the Dec. 14 edition of the Record) as "speaking volumes" in the way of an explanation of the Avalon Bay negotiation and the Zoning Board of Appeals' role in it – a process he described generally as a "legal, technical maze."

Commenting on Brady, however, Mulvehill was empathetic. "Technically, I can understand Tom's frustration but, from a legal perspective, the agreement was entered properly."

He shared some of his own frustrations with the way the two 40B developments were generally handled, saying that he had felt let down by the

Board of Selectmen, who he thought gave up the struggle against Forbes Hill "in the 23rd hour." In so doing, he referred almost word for word – without having been made aware of its appearance in Brady's letter – back to the quote attributed to North, including the "fighting tooth and nail" comment.

"I didn't want both," Mulvehill said in reference to the two developments, adding, "I didn't really have a 'problem' with Avalon Bay," based on its majority support at the 2014 May Town Meeting and that "it was a decent reuse of the property."

Forbes Hill, however, was another matter. Adamantly opposed, he voted against it – along with Brady – at the Sept. 5 ZBA meeting. He summed up his thoughts on the developments.

"I didn't agree with the process but it was all done legally and correctly and, at the end of the day, we don't have 40B to worry about."

Philip Riley – willing to comment on Brady's email – disputed his description of the first vote to "discuss settlement" by referring to the official minutes of the meeting.

Riley stated, "The motion was to approve the settlement as put forth by Karis North to settle the Avalon Bay dispute."

Regarding the second vote, Riley again referred to the minutes, which had Brady saying before it was cast that "it was the right thing to do to get it behind us," but that he felt he had to oppose it.

Speaking of Brady's opinion that "the Board was misled" by Karis North, Riley disavowed the quote that Brady had attributed to her, stating that "Counsel said nothing of the kind."

Referring to – as Riley described it – his "alleged" Oct. 17 phone call with Mulvehill, he stated – with some incredulosity – that, "there never was an Oct. 17 call. It simply didn't happen."

Brady's email is reproduced in its entirety on Page 12.



Ask The Doctor

Junior Damato began servicing vehicles in 1969. He owns a 10-bay auto repair service center in Hyde Park and an 8-bay center in Middleboro. Junior is an ASE-certified Master Technician, ASE-certified L-1 and ASE-certified Natural Gas.

A perfect three-season, four-door sports sedan

The 2017 Lexus GS F four-door sedan could be named the perfect sedan for drivers who want a very quiet and smooth ride with all the creature comforts you expect from a Lexus. This is a rear-drive car with big, wide performance tires and alloy rims to match. Behind the large alloy rims you can see the very large Brembo multi-piston, orange painted brake calipers and large disc brake rotors with high friction brake pads to aid in smooth, quick stopping power at any speed. Open the doors and you see sport designed heated and ventilated front seating, and Alcantara door trim, with armrest and upper panels also covered. The center dash holds a large multifunction display screen controlled from a master knob on the center console. All functions can also be controlled via separate control knobs (a great option for us old timers).

Power comes from a 5.0 liter, V/8 engine rated at 487 horsepower via a multi-mode 8-speed automatic, including a snow mode. (In my opinion this is NOT a car to be driven in the snow with these performance tires – an aggressive set of four snow tires is a MUST for winter driving conditions if this car is your only transportation.) The GS F is not just a GS model with a big powerful engine. The suspension and steering is all part of the performance sedan. The GS F has all the popular safety and convenience features that are in all Lexus models. Our test car had the optional Mark Levinson audio system with 17 speakers and 835 watts of power. Turn the volume up and it is still crystal clear.

The GS F drives like a high-end sedan under every road condition. With that said, everything changes when the accelerator is depressed just past the half position. As the RPM get close to 4,000, the quiet engine turns into a very mild roar sound that sings until the red line. Like the engine, the transmission is silky smooth unless you are at full throttle or in the sport or sport plus mode and this also holds true for suspension settings. Like I said at the beginning, this is truly a perfect sedan for someone that wants it all. The body clad molding is unique for the GS F and it looks great on this car. EPA: 16 city, 24 highway, average combined 19 mpg. Premium gas is recommended.

Boston's own Junior Damato, "The Auto Doctor" has agreed to field auto repair questions from *Bulletin* and *Record* readers. Please forward your questions to news@bulletinnewspapers.com and we will do our best to get your questions answered.

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ZBA continued from page 2

for the property at 12 Overlook Dr. regarding a roofed porch intruding on a side setback by 3.1 feet.

According to Attorney David Hern, representing the owners, the request for relief was brought about by water from the front of the foundation

flooding the finished basement.

"After consulting various people, they've determined that if they can build a porch with a roof that will keep the water several feet away from the foundation, that would help to keep the water out of the basement," Hern said.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The only other appointment on the agenda was a 7:45 p.m. decision on 142 Rock St. regarding a split lot/new construction.

With Tom Brady absent and Mulvehill and Eysie recusing themselves, this had to be rescheduled to the next ZBA meeting, scheduled for Jan. 16.

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NHS embraces the challenge of changing education

Matt MacDonald

Staff Reporter

As Principal of Norwood High School, Jonathan Bourn has a big, multi-faceted job, the core of which is to effectively manage the education of the over 900 students in its student body.

While this goal continues to remain a constant for school principals everywhere, the methods of achieving this goal – and the parts that complete it – are constantly changing.

From the “readin,’ writin,’ ‘arithmetic,’” of the one-room schoolhouse 200 years ago, to the compulsory French and Spanish of 30 years ago, to the present day’s Mandarin Chinese and standard issue tablets for everyone, some of the change that is constant can be observed by any adult with even cursory exposure to the workings of any given school system.

Other changes taking place in schools can be far less easy to observe. Despite this, they’re considered to be no less important in achieving that goal of effectively educating students than those more visible ones.

At the Nov. 8 School Committee meeting, Principal Bourn presented NHS’s 2017-2018 school improvement plan. While academics were an important aspect of what he had to say that night, two other talking points rose to that level: social-emotional learning and cultural proficiency.

Both focus on helping students (and teachers) to better understand themselves and those around them as individuals, and to use this awareness toward positive outcomes, such as speaking up for oneself, being independent, and solving problems.

During his presentation to the Committee, Bourn touched on different methods that NHS would be using to try to help to bring these concepts to reality.

At the time, the plans that Bourn described were just getting underway for the school year, but about a month later, he sat down with the Record to talk in more detail about his and NHS’s ongoing commitment to these concepts as important aspects of a more complete education.

At the School Committee meeting, Bourn mentioned an activity, Challenge Day, which had just taken place at the school. As he described it in more detail when speaking about it in his office, it was an all-day affair in which 100 stu-

dents (some who were invited, others who signed up) as well as staff and members of the community, participated.

Its activities, as carried out over the course of the day, seek to help students identify their comfort zones. Bourn got at the idea of “comfort zones” in an observational way.

“If you look at any high school cafeteria, kids kind of decide where they’re going to sit by clique or group or identity or grade or what have you,” Bourn said. “It’s incorrectly understood by kids that you can’t sit here, you’re supposed to sit there.”

As students left their comfort zones over the course of the day, it brought different cross-sections of the student body into close and positive contact with each other.

“The program helped them to see that they actually have a tremendous amount of common interest – a lot more commonality than they would have imagined,” Bourn said.

This marked the fifth Challenge Day that Bourn has participated in, and his third at NHS.

As he spoke of its evolution, from the difficulty bringing students into the first one to its steadily increasing popularity, he also spoke of it approaching a critical mass in which enough students, staff, and community will have participated to be able to meaningfully impact NHS.

He also spoke of these increased numbers of participants as lending credibility to the program.

“Now, when I talk about social-emotional learning, it’s not something like, ‘What’s this new gimmick? Did this guy go to a conference? Did he read an article?’ People see how real and tangible and important it is, and I think as we look to implement and infuse social-emotional learning into our curriculum, the community is more informed and more aware that this isn’t some hackneyed add-on, this is a critical component of youth development,” Bourn said.

In a quantifiable way, measuring the progress of the program may be difficult while, in a qualitative way, it may be a little easier to do. In speaking of this, Bourn referenced the inclusiveness that Challenge Day program sought to promote.

“Whether it has increased or not, it has been encouraged and expected and noted, and I think – to that end – it’s more about establishing a culture in that it’s

recognized and celebrated,” he said. “So that is more the shift. It’s more of a cultural shift.”

Bourn made sure to clarify that NHS has always been “a very caring building” while adding on that with the development of social-emotional learning, it’s easier to pinpoint the reasons why it’s so important, and the best ways to share it in a way most beneficial to the most people.

At around the same time as Challenge Day, NHS teachers took part in professional development focused on implicit bias. This activity, much as the students’ activity had done, encouraged in teachers an increased self-awareness and awareness in others.

Bourn acknowledged the difficulty inherent in this sort of self-assessment.

“It’s hard to know that you’ve been doing things a certain way, and when you look back, ‘Oh, man. All this time, I’ve been doing things in a way that may have negatively impacted kids.’ That’s not why I got into this business. That’s not why any of us got into this business,” he said.

But as he went on, he did get to the business while bringing both student and teacher/social-emotional and cultural proficiency elements together.

“We’re in the business for preparing students for the world that awaits them, and we want to set up a culture where the adults in the school are capable of having conversations about race and bias and prejudice, so that the kids are comfortable having conversations about race, prejudice, and bias,”



Norwood High School Principal Jonathan Bourn at his desk. Through social-emotional learning, he is encouraging an increased level of awareness and understanding among students and staff. As he put it, “When I think about my job, it’s to continuously support these efforts.”

MATT MACDONALD

Bourn said.

This was tested after a September incident in which an NHS student went on social media to list and defend a number of racial stereotypes. It went viral, hitting the school and the Town quickly.

Reflecting on the incident and the student forum he called to address it, Bourn was unsure of where to begin and what to say to the students.

With that very much in mind, the training helped him to better conceptualize what had happened and how to deal with it.

He reflected as well on those students throughout the school there to support those students “who still could be hurting from this.”

“I think what it did do is it really kind of created an impetus for, especially, the student body to be able to say, ‘We need to talk about race and culture.’... Hopefully, there’s more capacity among the entire

community to have these conversations in in-depth ways,” Bourn said.

Speaking about where things go from here, Bourn acknowledged that it’s a big job, roughly akin to working on a puzzle that you know you’ll never solve.

“All of the elements are there,” Bourn said. “It is something that I think, hopefully with enough community knowledge and buy-in as to why we’re doing what we’re doing, people can realize why some of the changes are being made.”

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DEATHS

DeFALCO

Mary "June" (Whalen) Of Norwood, formerly of Dedham, Dec. 26, 2017. Beloved wife of the late Francis J. DeFalco. Devoted mother of Peter A. DeFalco and his wife Diane D. of Walpole, Kevin J. and John E. DeFalco, both of Dedham. Loving grandmother of Peter A., II, Jonathan F. and Gabrielle D. DeFalco. Sister of Beverly Coughlin of Chelmsford and the late Daniel Whalen. Late retired employee of Verizon for 40 years. Funeral was from the George F. Doherty & Sons Wilson-Cannon Funeral Home, 456 High St., DEDHAM. A Funeral Mass was in St. Mary's Church, Dedham. Interment was at Brookdale Cemetery, Dedham. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made, in Mary's memory, to the Jimmy Fund, P. O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.

FOUNTAIN



Don H. 102, Of Norwood, Saturday, Dec. 30. Son of the late Archibald and Neva (Weatherbee) Fountain. Beloved husband of 72 years of the late Elena (Susi) Fountain. Devoted father of Elaine Posner and her husband Arthur

of Plymouth, and the late Janet Lazzara; father-in-law of Anthony Lazzara and his wife Kathy. Cherished grandfather of Scott Posner and his partner Roberta Knight, Allison Posner, Matthew Lazzara and his wife Cara, Neva Lazzara and her fiancé, Todd Nicodemus, and Jacqueline Cox and her husband Andrew. Loving great-grandfather of Jane and Noah Lazzara, Maria and David Cox, Gina and Ella Brown, and Jeff Ballentine. Brother of the late Hawley, Leslie, and Hugh Fountain. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Don was the proprietor of Bosworth Printing Co., Boston. In his retirement, he was an avid gardener and woodworker. He loved his home state of Vermont. A celebration of Don's life is being planned for spring. Interment is private. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Don's memory to Dana-Farber Cancer Research Institute, 44 Binney St., Boston, MA 02215. Gillooly Funeral Home.

PICCIRILLI

Joseph A. 87, of Norwood, formerly of Hyde Park and Westwood, passed away peacefully on Dec. 25, 2017. Beloved son of the late John and Santina (Petrucci) Piccirilli. Devoted brother of Dominic A. Piccirilli of Westwood, Albert T. Piccirilli and his wife Lorraine of Falmouth, John J. Piccirilli and his wife Irene of Plymouth and the late Laura Medaglia and Vincent Piccirilli. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Funeral services was held in the Gillooly Funeral Home, 126 Walpole St. (Rte.1A), NORWOOD. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Hyde Park. Memorial contributions in memory of Joseph A. Piccirilli may be made to the charity of one's choice.

SCOTT



Mary Elizabeth 68, with her daughter by her side, died peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, in Norwood. Even with her recent health challenges, Ms. Scott never allowed herself to miss an opportunity to live life to its fullest potential and inspired a great deal more to do the same through her perseverance, infectious laugh and raper-sharp wit. Born on Feb. 26, 1949 in Norwood, Mass; a place where Mary would forever call home. It was in Norwood that Mary would attend Norwood High School and raise her daughter Heather. Mary is the daughter of the late Mary and Charles Sauer and is survived by daughter, Heather Scott-Wisheart and her husband Kevin Wisheart of Norwood and Mary's grandsons Harrison and Alexander. Mary attended the Katherine Gibbs College and used her education and her experience as a mother to channel her energies into an efficient and effective Administrative Assistant, all the while raising Heather. Mary's interests and hobbies included quilting and the personal joys of collecting and cultivating one of the most unusual and eclectic assemblies of fabric known. Fellow quilters and sewing enthusiasts understand, all too well, the mantle Mary carried for the safeguarding and cultivation of such a fine fabric collection. Mary was a tireless supporter of her daughter's love of bagpiping which led her to join

the St. Andrew's Ladies Pipe Band as the Bass Drummer in order to chaperone Heather. Mary's support for piping continued for her son-in-law hoping that her grandsons might follow in their parent's footsteps (or hers as a bass drummer). Friends and relatives are respectfully invited for an 11 a.m. memorial and celebration of life on Saturday, Jan. 6, at Grace Episcopal Church, 150 Chapel St., Norwood, MA 02062. Wearing colors which remind you of Mary is encouraged. Interment will be private and held at a later date. In recognition of her battle with PSP and to support her love for animals, the family requests in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to CurePSP (psp.org) or MSPCA (mspca.org). Gillooly Funeral Home.

SERRATORE



Tommaso of Norwood passed away on Jan. 1, 2018 at the age 92. Beloved husband of the late Maria (Serratore) Serratore. Devoted and loving Father of Antonio, Giovanna and Connie, all of Norwood. Cherished grandfather of seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Also survived by two brothers and three sisters. Son of the late Antonio and Concetta (Serratore) Serratore. Funeral from the Kraw-Kornack Funeral

Home the Kraw-Kornack Funeral Home 1248 Washington St., NORWOOD, Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018 at 8 a.m. followed by a funeral Mass at 9 a.m. in St. Catherine of Siena Church, Norwood. Visiting hours were held on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018 from 4-7 p.m. Burial will be at Highland Cemetery, Norwood.

THOMPSON



Maureen A. (Bedard) of Norwood, passed away on Dec. 23, 2017. Born in Fall River, Mass., daughter of the late Joseph and Lumina (Renaud) Bedard and the beloved wife of Thomas H. Thompson. Loving mother of Joshua Thompson and his wife Jennifer of Boise, Idaho and Leah Thompson of Atlanta, Ga. Cherished grandmother of Paris and Ethan Thompson. Devoted sister of Ronald Bedard of Wisconsin. Dear cousin of Rosemary Alden of Warren, R.I. Maureen was a lifelong supporter of the ASPCA and Saint Joseph's Indian school, among other charitable endeavors. She was a devout member of the Emmanuel Lutheran church and gave back by providing support and comfort for many of its members over the years as a volunteer minister. She Loved nature and animals and was fond of walking the trails and woods of Massachusetts. She taught Yoga for many years out of her home and through adult education programs and had an enduring fascination with spirituality in all faiths. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 11 a.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 24 Berwick St., Norwood. Arrangements by Gillooly Funeral Home, 126 Walpole St., Norwood.

Obituary policy

The Bulletin Newspaper publishes obituaries from information supplied by funeral homes. Relatives and friends also may supplement information by e-mailing our office at news@norwoodrecord.com by Monday at 1 p.m. Photos also will be accepted.

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Sports

Mustangs hockey pulls up for first win of the season before 2018

Jake Levin
Staff Reporter

A 4-0 win for the Norwood High boys' hockey team over Dedham High helped the Mustangs close out 2017 with nothing but good vibrations.

It was the first win of the season for the Mustangs, now 1-2-2, with a hope that the dominating performance against the Marauders can translate into even more success as the calendar flips to 2018.

"It was huge," Norwood head coach Chuck Allen said. "We came close in a couple of games but it was nice to get a win before the New Year. It just put everyone back in a good mood. Winning is contagious and it builds their confidence a little bit. It's much better being off a little bit instead of having to come back looking for that first win."

From the drop of the puck in the first period at Bajko Rink, the Mustangs asserted themselves as the better team on the ice. Norwood led 3-0 after the first period and limited Dedham to just 10 shots on goal, all of which were turned away by Austin Reardon for his first shutout of

the season.

Joe Spadorcia scored 5:10 into the first period on a feed from Sean Munro, with Chris Martin doubling the lead about two minutes later on helpers from Anthony Marchant and Aidan Reardon. Munro scored an unassisted goal at 13:16 of the first period and completed his three-point night with an assist on Brandon Walsh's dagger at 13:44 of the second.

"I think they're very young. They came out in the second and third period banging, and territorially we took it to them," Allen said of the Marauders, who are now 1-4-0 - 1-3-0 in their new digs, the Tri-Valley League. "We're just a lot deeper than them."

The game at Bajko was the first of the season there for the Mustangs and its first home game overall. Norwood will have two more home games at Bajko and seven at Rodman Arena in Walpole.

The win for the Mustangs takes on even more importance because of Dedham's status as a Division 2 team for postseason purposes. While Norwood remains under .500 overall, it is now 1-0 in

Boys Hockey
Continued on page 11



Norwood Mustangs Boys Hockey Coach Chuck Allen said it was a game changer to go into the 2018 year with a check in the win column, and hopefully into the playoffs.

PHOTO BY JAKE LEVIN

Defense major issue for tough loss against Stoughton for Girls Basketball



Kiki Ryan, left, was able to rack up some points, along with the rest of the team, but they couldn't keep Stoughton back.

PHOTO BY JAKE LEVIN

Jake Levin
Staff Reporter

Turnovers made it impossible for the Norwood High girls' basketball team to have enough shots to keep up with Stoughton High in a 49-32 loss on Saturday.

While the Mustangs (2-3) had respectable shooting numbers for the game, the Black Knights had countless extra possessions thanks to the 25 turnovers Norwood committed, including 17 between the second and third quarters.

"We knew they were very aggressive and that's something that was a little concerning for us because we play a little helter-skelter

when the other team tries to put the pressure on us," Mustangs head coach Amy Lepley said after the game. "We've worked on that in practice, but they're a very good team and they forced us into turnovers. You give all of the credit to them."

Norwood tied the game at 9-all late in the first quarter on a Kaylin Reen 3-pointer, but its troubles with Stoughton's half-court press became insurmountable from there on out. The Black Knights used a 10-0 run to create enough distance between themselves and the Mustangs for the remainder of the contest.

Girls Bball
Continued on page 10

Norwood Wrestling shows some promise

Jake Levin
Staff Reporter

The Norwood High wrestling team remains in search of its first win of the season as the calendar flips to 2018.

With a deeper team than season's past, there've been plenty of cases of Mustangs earning individual wins in the early going. Chief among them is co-captain Colin Plasko, who is now 9-5 to begin his senior season while wrestling in the 182-pound weight class.

As a team, Norwood is 0-6, with losses to Xaverian Brothers High, Burlington High,

Canton High, Wellesley High, Framingham High and Sharon High. In the Mustangs' last match of 2017, which took place on Dec. 30, Plasko picked up a win and Danny Barron, who wrestles in the 160-pound weight class, pinned his opponent in the first round. But those were some of the only bright spots for Norwood, which fell to the Eagles in a 60-16 final.

The Mustangs also wrestled in a tournament over the winter break at Marshfield High, where 36 other teams from across the region participated. Norwood placed 24th at the competition as a team, while

Plasko and Cordell Souther each finished in the top-10 of their respective weight classes.

The Mustangs continued their regular season last night with a dual meet against Newton North High, in an event held after the Record's deadline. Norwood is next in action tomorrow with a quad meet at Newton South High, where the Lions, Boston Latin High and Excel Academy will also be participating.

Not until February will the Mustangs wrestle at home again, when they'll be home for a quad meet on Feb. 3 and a dual meet on Feb. 7.

Boys Bball falls to Sharon



Despite the loss, Coach JJ Oliver said he is hopeful that they can pull together to make the playoffs.

Jake Levin
Staff Reporter

One step forward, two steps back is how it's gone for the Norwood High boys' basketball team in the early going this season.

The Mustangs (0-4) finally played their home opener on Tuesday night vs. Sharon High after spending the entire first month of the season on the road. Despite a good night in terms of executing on the offensive end, according to head coach JJ Oliver, Norwood couldn't punt any run of significance together in a 57-40 loss to the Eagles.

"We just keep finding different poisons night in, night out offensively," Oliver said after the game. "Tonight, I actually felt like we ran our sets pretty well and we were getting some nice looks. The point guards did a better job taking care of the basketball tonight, but guys that we usually count on to score didn't. It's one thing or another right now for us."

Chris Sheehan led the Mustangs in scoring with 11 points, the lone player to reach

double figures for the team.

Oliver remains hopeful that at some point, a player or two will emerge as a go-to guy on the offensive side of the floor. Sheehan, one of Norwood's senior co-captains, would appear to be as good a candidate as any based on his skillset.

"That's definitely a question for the team," Oliver said. "Chris is definitely a guy who can score around the basket and hit the outside shot, which makes him difficult to guard. He did a nice job with that tonight."

Sheehan scored the Mustangs' final points of the third quarter, cutting their deficit to 38-25, and sank another basket while being fouled to open the fourth quarter for Norwood. Though he missed the free throw that followed, Sheehan had ignited an 11-4 run for the Mustangs, who got within single digits of Sharon on a Billy Tomasello 3-pointer to make it 42-34 in favor of the Eagles.

On cue, Sharon nailed a 3 of its own back on offense to extinguish the Norwood threat and pull away in the Hockomock League-Bay State

Conference affair. The teams will play again on Feb. 11 in Sharon.

"Individually, we just need a couple of guys to start to come into their own a little bit, score the basketball and set their teammates up," Oliver said. "I think we'll be a different team as the season goes on."

In all, 10 different players scored a basket for the Mustangs. Oliver said he knew coming into the season just how important practices would be for his team, and the sessions held prior to Norwood's next game against Framingham High tomorrow night at home (6:30 p.m. tip) will be as important as any in continuing to develop the confidence of the young Mustangs on the offensive end.

"We do have inexperienced guys playing meaningful minutes," Oliver said. "They're definitely taking their lumps and going through some growing pains, but they're definitely getting better each and every game. Hopefully as we get further into January we start to have guys click individually."

Girls Bball *continued from page 9*



Despite strong showings in the beginning of the season, the Norwood Mustangs were not able to pull a win out of this hat.

PHOTO BY JAKE LEVIN

Stoughton's shooting numbers were by no means great – the Black Knights failed to shoot 50 percent or better from the floor in all four quarters – but when Norwood attempted as few shots as it did, the sheer volume of made field goals gave the advantage to the Black Knights.

For example, the Mustangs shot 60 percent from the field in the second quarter...on just 3 of 5 shooting. They had seven turnovers in the second quarter and 10 more in the third, the same period in which Norwood's only points came on an Ali Giambanco 2-point shot. The team was 1 for 4 from the floor in the third before closing out with a solid 6 for 14 performance in the fourth, by which point it was too little, too late.

"We wanted our guards to attack a little more and we need to get the ball to our post players," Lepley said. "Every single time we got the ball to our post players, we scored. We're struggling a little bit with our ball-handling, they were a very tough and athletic team so our passes, we were trying to go over the top and we just couldn't really get into a rhythm."

Reen led the Mustangs with 14 points. No other player could crack double figures.

Norwood trailed 12-9 at the end of the first quarter, 25-16 at halftime and 35-18 after three. Reen sank a 3-pointer early in the fourth to get the Mustangs within 12 points, the closest they could get before falling a game below .500.

"We were only down by nine at halftime, but in the third quarter we were literally giving them basket after basket," Lepley said. "We just need to focus on taking care of the ball so we can get

those shots."

The good news for Norwood is that it'll get a second crack at Stoughton – as well as Milford High and Norton High, two other nonleague opponents the Mustangs faced over their first five games. Norwood fell to the Scarlet Hawks, 49-43 at home on Dec. 21 but took care of the Lancers in Norton, 54-42, on Dec. 28.

"We're a very young team, we're playing some young kids and we're playing a senior who hasn't played in a couple of years," Lepley said. "We're just going to continue to progress and luckily, we get to see Milford again, we get to see Norton again and we get to see Stoughton again. It'll be interesting to see how much we have progressed in late January and February when we play them again."

The Mustangs next play tomorrow night at Framingham High at 6:30 p.m. for their first of two meetings with the Flyers. While Framingham is in the Carey Division of the Bay State Conference, the unbalanced schedule this year has created a scenario in which the schools will play twice rather than their customary single meeting.

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Boys Hockey *continued from page 9*

Sullivan rule games, with four remain

ing. If the Mustangs finish .500 or better under the Sullivan rule, they'll qualify for the Division 2 South tournament regardless of their overall record.

In either scenario, Allen believes Norwood is stronger this year than its 8-10-2 mark of a season ago.

"I think we're better than last year," he said. "Getting that first win hopefully will get them going."

The Mustangs play the Marauders again on Martin Luther King Day, or Monday, Jan. 15 at 10:15 a.m. at

the Noble & Greenough School. Norwood also has a single game with Brookline High and two games with the Boston Latin Academy that will count towards its Sullivan rule metrics.

The extended vacation comes to an end for the Mustangs on Saturday, when they'll host Framingham High at 5:30 p.m. at Rodman. The Flyers are 2-5-1, each of their wins coming against Bay State Conference opponents. Framingham is the defending Division 1 State runner-up after a 4-2 loss vs. St. Mary's High of Lynn in the title game last March.



Austin Reardon was able to hold the line and keep the Mustangs in the lead in his first shutout of the season.

PHOTO BY JAKE LEVIN

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From: tom brady <tbrady0825@gmail.com>
 Date: November 5, 2017 at 6:29:40 PM EST
 To: TMcQuaid@norwoodma.gov
 Subject: Avalon Bay 408

Tom,

I apologize that we haven't had the chance to meet face to face yet. I will try to get over in the near future and do so. I feel that I have to send you a quick note regarding a situation that I feel could have serious ramifications for the town in the future. The comprehensive permit for the Avalon Bay project was never voted on (ratified) by the Zoning Board of Appeals. This fact is agreed upon by myself and fellow members Pat Mulvehill, Jack Perry and alternate board member Scott Murphy, who sat in because of a conflict of interest with member Barbara Kinter. In a quick briefing, in my opinion, the board was misled, whether intentionally or unintentionally, on May 16, 2017 by town counsel Karis North when she was present at an executive session of our board and stated that "the best thing we could do moving forward is vote to negotiate settlement with Avalon Bay so we could then fight the Davis-Marcus project tooth and nail". A statement she now denies making even though 4 out of 5 members remember the statement being made. A vote was taken initially to "discuss settlement". That vote passed 4-1. Rigorous and lengthy debate took place leading to a second vote. The second vote taken was to "direct Karis North to enter negotiation with Avalon Bay to settle the case with a reduction in the number of units from 218 to 198". That vote also passed 4-1.

We next saw town counsel Karis North on August 29. She arrived at another executive session and presented us with a "draft comprehensive permit" that had multiple waivers in it that the Zoning Board had never heard of or discussed. Town Counsel North said that "she had hoped for a vote on this tonight". She was promptly rejected and told that we wanted more time to review. It was agreed that we would reconvene on Sept. 5, 2017 to continue discussion. At the Sept. 5 meeting, which Town Counsel North also asked for a vote at, several members had issues with some of the waivers and directed Town Counsel North to go back to the table and re-negotiate. That was the last we heard from Town Counsel Karis North regarding Avalon Bay. At no point was a comprehensive vote taken.

On Oct 14, 2017, I received a call from Dennis Cawley, editor of the Norwood Record. Mr. Cawley asked me if I had seen the copy of the comprehensive permit for Avalon Bay signed by Zoning Chairman Phil Riley. I told him that to my knowledge, there wasn't one because we were still negotiating waivers. Mr. Cawley went on to tell me that not only did he have a copy, but all of the abutters had been mailed a copy of this signed permit by the Zoning Board secretary. Presumably done so at the behest of the chairman. I made clear of my impression of the status of the case and ended the conversation. I then reached out to the 3 other board members present at all of the Avalon hearings (Mulvehill, Murphy and Perry) who shared my sentiments in the fact the this permit was unfinished and had never been ratified.

On Oct. 17, 2017, Zoning Chair Riley, in a state of confusion, called board member Mulvehill and asked, "let me ask, did we or didn't we not vote on this permit for Avalon Bay". Member Mulvehill promptly set the record straight with him. Ironically, nine days later, Zoning Chair Riley's memory had miraculously returned and in an article in the Norwood Record he recited verbatim what he felt took place in the executive session on May 16, some five months earlier.

Tom, I'm not sure who instructed Mr. Riley on what to say to the newspaper, but his statements are filled with inaccuracies and inconsistencies. None of the board members are in agreement with what he said and frankly, I can't figure out what's going on here or who's involved in what. I feel that the abutters, who are vigorously opposed to this project, now have ample information and opportunity to take class action against the town and as a board member, I'm unsure how to proceed from here. I have little faith in Town Counsel North going forward because I feel she should have known the permit was incomplete having been present at every executive session meeting regarding Avalon Bay. We have a problem here and I didn't want to see you or any town official blindsided by this. I have also spoken with several members of the Board of Selectmen. Please call me with any questions or advice. Thank you.

Tom Brady
 617-972-4355

Editor's Note: Dennis Cawley agrees that a telephone call took place with Mr. Brady on October 27, but did not state that a signed copy had been sent to all abutters. The only copy the newspaper had was unsigned and had no knowledge that any document had been mailed to abutters, signed or unsigned.

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