

Southern Airways *continued from page 5*

Norwood offers a really, really good alternative for folks on the South Shore and to the west of the city.”

Southern Airways’ proposed daily round trip would originate at the Airport in the morning and arrive from Nantucket in the late afternoon, with flights scheduled from Friday through Monday.

The eight-passenger Cessna Caravan that would fly the route will have no flight attendant, catering, or lavatory service.

When asked about possibly scheduling more flights, Cestari’s response was measured:

“We would rather start conservatively and spool up, rather than start aggressively and spool down. We don’t think that’s in our best interest, or the Airport’s.”

Cestari also stated that route pilots would be based locally and live within the community:

“We find it’s a great way to maintain an on-time operation because our pilots live close to where they’re starting and ending the day, and it’s just good community relations.”

He also stated that the airline was in discussions with other communities to add a third stop to the route, with Martha’s Vineyard and Provincetown mentioned as possibilities.

No vote was required of the Commission regarding this planned route, although Airport Manager Russ Maguire explained that – as a based commercial operator – Southern Airways could apply for a permit at the Airport, or use it while based at another airport.

Cestari informed the NAC

that it would opt for the latter (it’s based in Pennsylvania), although it will keep its route plane – and probably a spare – tied down at the Airport.

Last week’s meeting was Southern Airways’ first regarding its plans for the new route. Its next was scheduled with the Nantucket Airport Commission on Tuesday, May 14.

Cestari explained that – if Nantucket approves the plan – tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, May 15 to allow for a one month run-up to the first flight, while adding, “If we find that – two weeks into it – we’re selling out, what a nice problem to have.”

In other NAC business, Boston Executive Helicopters (BEH) made the agenda several times:

In old business, Chair Mark Ryan addressed the written complaints of two helicopter operators regarding BEH’s fuel truck, which he described – based on their contents – as driving around the southern helipads and delaying the operations of two choppers.

According to Ryan, the two letters complained of BEH’s unsafe operations.

He added that the NAC recommended that a letter be sent to BEH by Maguire “expressing concern by Airport tenants – and management of the Airport – of unusual or unsafe operations by the BEH fuel truck, and to use better judgment in the future.”

In new business, the Commission voted to authorize an advertisement for proposals regarding the lease of lots A, B, and C, as well as the construction of a hangar.

In discussion beforehand, the topic led to commentary

from Vice-Chair Michael Sheehan regarding a call he had received from an unnamed Selectman concerning correspondence submitted to the Board from BEH (which Sheehan at first left unnamed but which was noted in the correspondence section of the agenda) raising issue with the advertisement.

Without going into too many specifics regarding the letter, Sheehan stated that one of the reasons that the lots were up for bid was because BEH had had complained that it wasn’t being treated fairly because the NAC hadn’t been making apron space available.

“And now that we’re doing that, we’re somehow doing something else wrong,” he added.

Remaining silent through all of this was BEH President Christopher Donovan, who was standing near to where Sheehan was sitting, video recording the meeting.

At the April 10 NAC meeting, Donovan had been invited to speak regarding the two helicopter operators’ complaints but had declined because of late developments in the ongoing federal civil litigation between his company and the Commission and Town.

The case remains pending, with an evidentiary hearing scheduled in court on May 28.

At the conclusion of the open meeting, the NAC went into executive session to discuss this case, as well as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Director’s Determination – also the result of a BEH complaint – against the NAC and the Town.

The NAC meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Airport offices.

Boston Skating Club groundbreaking

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The three-rink circus started off early on Monday morning with a groundbreaking (or ice breaker) at the site for the new Skating Club of Boston (SCB) site on University Avenue in Norwood.

Executives, Town officials, well wishers, financiers and two Olympic Gold Medalists came to the event to share their stories of the SCB and what they hope for the future of the organization here in Norwood.

The theme of the groundbreaking was “The Next 100 Years.” Olympic gold medalist Scott Hamilton said during the event that since the club has lasted more than 100 years, they want to look at what the

next 100 years will hold.

“I think like everybody in this room, we love the sport of figure skating, we love everything about it,” he said. “We love the athleticism, we love the artistry, we love the pursuit of the impossible. When I look at the next hundred years, well I’m like this eternal optimist right? Is there anything more optimistic than the next 100 years? No! The only thing more optimistic would be to say, ‘I can’t wait to see it.’”

The new facility will feature three rinks, one of which includes the Performance Center that will seat 2,500 spectators and host exhibitions, shows and competitions for figure skating

Skating Club
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School Choice

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some portion of their day - if it’s been determined that they can be in a public school setting,” Cimeno said. “We should be able to, as educators, identify times when students can be included with their developing peers to benefit from that unity. I wholeheartedly believe that inclusion is possible for the vast majority of our students.”

Norwood High School principal, Dr. Hugh T. Galligan, vice principal, Cynthia Derrane, career counselor, Melaurie Jean-Noel, and head of guidance, Kristen McDonnell represented the Norwood Public Schools school committee with a presentation on expanding career-focused education programs at Norwood High Schools. Jean-Noel said the purpose of the initiative is to make sure high school students are taking ownership of their learning and making appropriate real-world connections to their passions.

“Are [students] making the connection of what the purpose of attending high school is, rather than just saying, ‘I’m going to high school just to go to college?’” Jean-Noel asked before introducing MyCap (My career and academic plan), a student-directed, multi-year planning tool designed to increase students’ understanding of what they’re learning and how it will connect to their future careers. The six key components are advising, the labor market demand, the integrated instruction blend of academic coursework with career model, work-based learning where kids will get special work experience, the credential preparations so kids will come out with OSHA 10 certificates or first-aid certification, and post-secondary planning.

Norwood High School students and National Honors Society members, Emily Murray and Surya Adeleye were present to be honored with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents academic excellence award. The career education program is equally designed to organically aid honor students like them as well as students who struggle academically, may not have their future mapped out yet, or who don’t envision going to a four-year college find their calling.

Pay to Play policy came next on the agenda and a lengthy discussion was held on whether or not sports funding should be bundled and require every student who wishes to play to pay a fee anywhere between \$600 and \$1,100. The issue became more complicated once Title IX compliance and socio-economic ramifications were factored in, raising equality issues around funding for more expensive sports like men’s football compared to women’s sports such as women’s field hockey, volleyball, and soccer.

“I just read out loud from a paragraph that said a quarter of our population is economically disadvantaged and you’re going to set up a situation where boys have money and girls don’t, and what is that going to do in the hallways and cafeterias?” Smith asked. “‘Because you don’t have the money to play, I can’t play?’ I am so morally against this in every way.”

After an hour and a half of deliberation, with more than one moment where there was a long silence, and committee members expressing turmoil over what to decide, Stewart proposed a motion to move forward with the pay for play option with a deadline of June 1st to decide funding for the Marching band (so they have enough notice to make band camp) and June 15th for all other sports. At around 10:25 PM the motion was unanimously approved.

Norwood needs an operational override.

Vote YES on June 3

A YES vote:

- ✓ Keeps the Willett School open
- ✓ Funds after school sports, music, drama, and clubs
- ✓ Retains 12 teachers
- ✓ Protects police, fire, DPW, and library staff
- ✓ Saves town services
- ✓ Maintains our buildings, vehicles, and roads

What will the override do for Norwood?

- Stabilize our financial future.
- Allow us to keep present services for all residents.
- Provide quality education for our children.

Endorsed by:

Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce, Board of Selectman, Finance Commission, School Committee, and League of Women Voters



1Norwood
Yes for our schools. Yes for our town.

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Skating Club

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and short track speed skating. The second rink is slated for training and competitive events at 1,500 seats and the third will be an NHL-sized multi-purpose rink with 400 seats. According to agreements with the Town, the third rink will have dedicated ice time for Norwood Youth Hockey.

Norwood Board of Selectmen Chair Paul Bishop said this project, and the ice time secured for Norwood Youth Hockey, was a great achievement for the Town.

"It's a very proud day for the Town of Norwood, and especially for me because I get to meet Tenley Albright," he said, and added that like Renaissance masters of sculpting and painting, the master figure skaters of recent years – some of whom trained at the SCB – are also masters of their craft. "People like Dr. Albright, Scott Hamilton, Nancy Kerrigan, Paul Wylie, and so many others are great artists in their own right."

Town Manager Tony Mazzucco said when he first starting working in Norwood about a year and a half ago, and he said his first meeting with John Carroll had a large portion of it dedicated to the SCB.

"John of course had a long list of items and departments

to talk about, and we talked a little bit for about five or 10 minutes about who we knew in the industry, some war stories and he started going through all his departments," he said. "He then takes one of his big legal pads and tosses it to his side and said, 'we'll figure all that stuff out, let's talk about the Skating Club.'"

Mazzucco said the rest of the morning was a discussion about the SCB, and how to get the agreements with the club finalized.

"Norwood is at an incredible point in its history where in the last couple of years we've been recruiting more world-class biotech companies, we're on the verge of a \$200 million medical city development, we just passed the largest Downtown zoning change in our community's history and we're doing the same thing with Route 1 next year, and on June 3 we're also going to vote on the largest investment in education system that the Town has ever made," he said. "So Norwood is not only on the move, we're shooting for the moon and getting there, and of all the great things that have happened in Norwood in the last couple of years and will continue to happen, the SCB is one of them."

Saber

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on the phone while driving is a death sentence for some. What does it take to pass a law for human safety? Also, isn't it time the Congress in D.C. is able to make the decision that 'ENGLISH' is the official language of our country? We have NO official language, just the dumb statement that we have a common language. There are quite a few foreign countries that claim English as their official language. Be proud America, do what's right!

ELECTION

We have an election coming up June 3rd. The requested school budget is not possible without an override, which will be decided by the residents of Our Town. Make sure you vote. The education of our kids is important. As an aside, and as a great Town, we would probably do very well without an over-abundance of state interference.

MIXED USE OVERLAY

The project sounds interesting involving our uptown area. According to the plan, in some areas a third level could be constructed for residential housing. Speaking with 'young people,' certainly younger than me, they state that they want more restaurants and not many shops, as they order mostly online. It's the new world I guess. Remember Park Snow, Cummings, Kordettes, Sherwoods, Shepards, Liggetts, Irvings, Hanlons, Murrays, Norwood Hardware, Harold and Milty's Deli, and many

more? What a great memory for those of us who lived in that great era!

AN HONOR WELL DESERVED

Helen Abdallah Donohue has served the people of Our Town for many years in many ways. Helen was recently honored for her tremendous service to the seniors of Norwood at the Senior Center. In attendance were many seniors, friends and family including Selectmen Chair Paul Bishop, Selectman Bill Plasko, Retired Police Chief George DiBlasi and TM Tony Mazzucco. A wonderful surprise guest, former Town Manager John Carroll, came to thank Helen personally, to everyone's delight! John spoke beautifully, as did others, and Helen spoke with grace. We thank Helen for she truly cares about her Town. Thanks also go to the greatest Director of the Norwood Senior Center ever, Kerri McCarthy, and to her team who are also the best! The program was beautiful as was the reception that followed. Thank you NSC, and tremendous thanks to Helen for all she has done, and for what I am sure she will continue to do for the residents of Her Town.

AWARD, WELL DESERVED

Recently, the Norwood Middle School awarded National Junior Honor Society membership to those who met the difficult requirements. Great job kids, quite an honor!

Go Jess! FYI Did you know that there is a large flag decorated container at the entrance to Town Hall by Memorial Hall for the collection of all American Flags? So, if you need to discard Old Glory please do so properly. What a convenient and great idea!

WILL IT EVER END?

The housing area behind TJ Maxx is a crowded town of its own. Can you imagine the traffic and the influx of students? In front of TJ's the beat goes on with a mess that is dangerous and ill planned. Residents are furious, still wanting to support their stores, but without danger to themselves. Someone planned a fiasco!

BYE GUYS, happy Memorial Day, and please support the parade and ceremony at Highland. This special day certainly deserves the respect of every American no matter what your politics! I hope that my generation is NOT the last to remember, with honor and glory, the sacrifices our men and women made in the face of horror, evil, and hatred, so that our kids would always be free!

"On Mother's Day, I wish Heaven had visiting hours"

- Roma Downey



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