

Rumors run rampant around hospital work stoppage



Though some workers could be observed, the Norwood Hospital site has seen at least a reduction in workers at the site in September.

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

There is currently no official word from Norwood Hospital's owner Steward Medical or its contractor Suffolk Construction on whether or not the work on the Norwood Hospital has stopped or significantly slowed.

In fact, at the time of publication, representatives from both entities have not returned repeated requests for comment over the entire month of September.

But several residents have stated they have seen a reduction in the workforce over at the construction site during that time. Rumors abound on this topic, especially on social media.

Currently, the rumor is a deal has been worked out and those

workers who were off the site will return (some, like the plumbers, continued working throughout the last month), but as of the date of publication no word has come back on this from Steward or Suffolk. On Wednesday morning, Oct. 4, about 20 or so construction personnel could be observed on the site working.

Norwood Selectman Bill Plasko said he's been keeping an eye on the hospital just about every day.

"The only thing I've heard that seems to be verified by a review of the daily activities of the site is that a lot of the subcontractors have left the job," he said of his personal observations. "Now I do not know the financial relationship of the contract, whether it's Suffolk not paying their subs or if the subs are working for Steward and they're not

paying them, or Steward's not paying Suffolk so they don't have any money, but it was also strange that the week they walked off seemed to be a week or 10 days just after they had paid the Town \$4 million for building permits."

Plasko said he has seen some workers on the site during his observation, but said he feels it has been a marked reduction in labor at the hospital.

"It seems to be the people doing electrical and plumbing, but all the people doing the site work seem to have disappeared," he said. "I don't see any of their trucks or bodies on the site. They don't talk to us (the Board of Selectmen), certainly they're a private business

Hospital

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MASC chosen to search for Thomson replacement

School Committee votes to keep Coakley name

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Norwood School Committee met on Wednesday, Sept. 27 in a hybrid format and, after a bit of discussion, voted unanimously to keep the Philip O. Coakley Middle School's name.

The committee floated the idea of a name change earlier this year, offering to let residents submit alternative names for the new middle school under construction. Students would then have the opportunity to choose from the submitted names, ultimately to be approved by the School Committee. Several residents and former students of Philip O. Coakley voiced heavy opposition to the idea of changing the name, but the process got as far as naming the Philip O. Coakley Middle School, the Norwood Middle School and the Robert Fitzpatrick Middle School as finalists.

The School Committee held a forum the Tuesday before their meeting to hear one final time from residents. About 25 attendees came out to speak, only three were in favor of changing the name. School Committee members said during the Wednesday meeting that

they were happy to see so much interest in the Town's schools.

"There were comments made in support or opposition to the three top names," School Committee Chair Anne Marie Mazzola said. "It was nice to see lots of people come out and have very well thought out statements in support of the names that they thought appropriate."

Member Kate Sibbing-Dunn said she wants more residents to get involved in the schools, and hopes this renaming situation will lead to residents paying more attention to what goes on in the department.

"There are great things going on, with a lot of successes," she said. "We have some great students and great teachers, and we need our communities to be involved; we need our community to pay attention and be here when it matters."

Member Joan Giblin agreed.

"This is what we need at this point in time in this Town, engagement and dialogue," she said. "And so I just want to say thank you. I know that sometimes folks feel frustrated. I said this last night as well, that sometimes people feel like the

School Committee

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Norwood forages for Edible Plants

Ariane Komyati
Staff Reporter

Despite the damp and dreary weather, some Norwood residents were eager to partake in the "Wild Edible Plant Walk" at the Endean Meadows Conservation Land/Hawes Brook Recreational Area. The purpose of the tour was to educate others about identifying edible and medicinal plants found in the wild. The plant walk was led by Pam Kristan of the Boston Food Forest Coalition and Mark Negron, a food forest volunteer and Norwood resident.

The event took place on Saturday, Sept. 30 and was attended by 10 people, most of whom were Norwood residents. Attendees gathered at the Norwood Community Food Forest (20 Mylod St.) and wore boots due to the recent rain.

Kristan began the tour by asking attendees why they decided to join the edible plant walk. One person explained that they were excited to meet other people who are interested in foraging. A few people lived across the street from the com-

Edible Plants

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Norwood residents came out on a rainy Saturday to learn how to forage and graze for food in the great outdoors around Endean Park.

PHOTO BY ARIANE KOMYATI

Edible Plants *continued from page 1*

munity food forest and heard about the event from neighbors. One attendee wanted to teach their niece and nephew about wild edible plants.

Kristan explained that when eating wild plants, they do not have to be perfectly clean and washed. She said that it is rare to get ill from eating wild plants, unless you are eating large quantities of it. Some plants are only edible at a certain stage of growth. Kristan said people should just do what they feel comfortable with though, and related that she no longer forages for mushrooms, due to a negative experience she had eating an old mushroom that she had with wine sauce (the alcohol apparently had a bad reaction to the mushroom).

“One of the big places for wild food is edge habitats, where different habitats come together,” explained Kristan. An edge habitat is a floral community with different vegetation structure than the two adjoining habitats in nature. “Unfortunately, a lot of edge habitats are right next to roads. You don’t want to go there; you don’t want to eat the pollutants from the roads. But you don’t have to go far to get clean plants. If you’re on a slope, foraging up the slope is better than foraging down the slope,” said Kristan.

Edible plants spotted (and eaten) during the tour included

black walnuts, chicory root, plantain leaves, milkweed pods, rose hips, lamb’s quarters (also known as wild spinach), mulberries, pepperweed, goldenrod, curly dock, pokeweed, dandelion, and staghorn sumac. One attendee said that they were “ready for the Hunger Games” during the edible plant walk.

Staghorn sumac is at its prime when it is bright red and fuzzy. One foraging attendee noted that sumac is a common ingredient in Lebanese cooking. Kristan suggested adding dandelion flowers to pancake batter. Pepperweed is a member of the mustard family and has a bit of a spicy taste to it. Kristan stated that pepperweed tastes better when dried out. Rose hips and goldenrod can be used for tea. Foragers can begin harvesting rose hips in the fall – the longer the rose hips grow on the plant, the sweeter they taste. Chicory root is popular in coffee. Foraging for chicory root is usually done in the fall, along with other edible and medicinal roots like dandelion and valerian. The leaves, stalk and seeds of the curly dock plant are all edible. The leaves can be used in salads or put into soup. It is recommended to wash the really young leaves, since they contain a chemical which can numb your tongue.

During the edible plant walk, Kristan and Negron came

across some deadly nightshade, a poisonous perennial plant with oval leaves and purple bell shaped leaves. They explained that it is NOT edible.

Negron is passionate about regenerative work and is involved with the Norwood Community Food Forest, as well as food forests in Boston. “I’ve been partnering with the Town to create this type of activity. Norwood has at least one more food forest planned. This one [the Norwood Community Food Forest on Mylod St.] began about three years ago. The conservation commission and a few members of the community tried to start an apple orchard here [Endean Park] at the start. They planted 50 small saplings from Georgia that died pretty quickly. I convinced them to try the permaculture route - and that’s what it is now. The whole space has been evolving,” Negron stated.

For those who are interested in foraging, Negron recommended PictureThis, a plant identifier app that one can download on their smart phone. Kristan recommended a few foraging books, including the Edible Wild Plants, which is a Peterson Field Guide, The New Holistic Herbal by David Hoffman, and Stalking the Wild Asparagus by Euell Gibbons. When purchasing foraging books on Amazon, it is important to buy books by reputable authors, since some foraging



Residents learned which plants were safe to eat and which were not during the foraging walk.

PHOTO BY ARIANE KOMYATI

books on Amazon are AI generated and contain false information.

Endean Park is located off Washington Street and surrounds the Philip O. Coakley Middle School. It is a combination of recreational and conservation lands. Part of the land once belonged to the Bird family, who were owners of a paper making company in Walpole. Over the years, much of the land has been developed, including the middle school and athletic fields. Hawes Brook and the adjoining wetlands/marshy areas, comprise much

of the undeveloped land, along with the upland forest and open areas. The brook is a significant stream that flows under the nearby MBTA commuter rail tracks and eventually merges with the Neponset River.

The event was hosted by MEND - A Regenerative Movement and the Norwood Conservation Commission. MEND creates “a growing network of resilient ecosystems through the design, installation and maintenance.” For more information about MEND, visit facebook.com/mendregeneration.

TOWN OF NORWOOD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Norwood will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING on October 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM** on the request of Michael Baulier, regarding property located at **101 Hill St. (Map 4 Block 19 Lot 22), Norwood, MA 02062**, in the **General Residence (G) Zoning District**. The hearing will be held at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect Street, Norwood, MA 02062 and will also be available for remote participation via Google Meet:

Video call link:
<https://meet.google.com/xsu-pnjz-wua>
 Or dial: (US) +1 941-254-1160
 PIN: 402 158 920#

This Application requests a **Special Permit** pursuant to Zoning Bylaw Section 5.4.4 [Nonconforming Structures] to reconstruct the third floor, resulting in an addition to the existing single-family residence that would create an increase in floor area that exceeds 25%.

Any zoning relief that may be required in adherence to the Norwood Zoning Bylaw shall be considered by the Board. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the hearing and make their views known to the Board.

Plans are on file with this application in the office of the Zoning Board of Appeals and may be requested by emailing cped@norwoodma.gov Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Norwood Record:
10/05/23, 10/12/23

TOWN OF NORWOOD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Norwood will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING on October 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM** on the request of Shalini Baldeon on behalf of Avni Modern Event Space/Norwood Commerce Center, regarding property located at **61 Endicott Street (Map 8 Block 4D Lot 44), Norwood, MA 02062**, in the **Manufacturing (M) Zoning District**. The hearing will be held at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect Street, Norwood, MA 02062 and will also be available for remote participation via Google Meet:

Video call link:
<https://meet.google.com/xsu-pnjz-wua>
 Or dial: (US) +1 941-254-1160
 PIN: 402 158 920#

This Application requests a **Special Permit** pursuant to Zoning Bylaw Section 3.1.5. D 6 to open an event space under the Commercial Recreation (Indoors) use.

Any zoning relief that may be required in adherence to the Norwood Zoning Bylaw shall be considered by the Board. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the hearing and make their views known to the Board.

Plans are on file with this application in the office of the Zoning Board of Appeals and may be requested by emailing cped@norwoodma.gov Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Norwood Record:
10/05/21, 10/12/23

TOWN OF NORWOOD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Norwood will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING on October 24th, 2023 at 7:00 PM** on the request of Marina Bekker of Euphoria Health and Fitness, regarding property located at **61 Endicott St. (Map 8 Block 4D Lot 44), Norwood, MA 02062**, in the **Manufacturing (M) Zoning District**. The hearing will be held at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect Street, Norwood, MA 02062 and will also be available for remote participation via Google Meet:

Video call link:
<https://meet.google.com/xsu-pnjz-wua>
 Or dial: (US) +1 941-254-1160
 PIN: 402 158 920#

This application requests a **Special Permit** under Zoning Bylaw Section 3.1.5 D6 for Commercial Recreation (Indoors) in the Manufacturing District.

Any zoning relief that may be required in adherence to the Norwood Zoning Bylaw shall be considered by the Board. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the hearing and make their views known to the Board.

Plans are on file with this application in the office of the Zoning Board of Appeals and may be requested by emailing cped@norwoodma.gov Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Norwood Record:
10/05/23, 10/12/23

TOWN OF NORWOOD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Norwood will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING on October 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM** on the request of Joshua Ames representing Moderna, Inc., regarding property located at **1 Moderna Way (Map 14 Block 9 Lots 1& 1A and Map 14 Block 2 Lots 7, 7A, 7B, and 7C), Norwood, MA 02062**, in the **Life Science Development (LSDD) Zoning District and Water Resource Protection Overlay District (WRPOD)**. The hearing will be held at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect Street, Norwood, MA 02062 and will also be available for remote participation via Google Meet:

Video call link:
<https://meet.google.com/xsu-pnjz-wua>
 Or dial: (US) +1 941-254-1160
 PIN: 402 158 920#

This Application requests a **Special Permit** pursuant to Zoning Bylaw Sections 9.2.5 C and 9.2.5 G for storage of toxic or hazardous materials in the Water Resource Protection Overlay District (WRPOD).

Any zoning relief that may be required in adherence to the Norwood Zoning Bylaw shall be considered by the Board. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the hearing and make their views known to the Board.

Plans are on file with this application in the office of the Zoning Board of Appeals and may be requested by emailing cped@norwoodma.gov Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Norwood Record:
10/05/23, 10/12/23

TOWN OF NORWOOD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals of the Town of Norwood will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING on October 24th, 2023 at 7:00 PM** on the request of David Hern Jr., Esq., on behalf of 1144 Properties LLC, regarding property located at **115 Norwood Park South (Map 15 Block 7 Lot 1), Norwood, MA 02062**, in the **Boston Providence Highway (BPH) Zoning District**. The hearing will be held at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect Street, Norwood, MA 02062 and will also be available for remote participation via Google Meet:

Video call link:
<https://meet.google.com/xsu-pnjz-wua>
 Or dial: (US) +1 941-254-1160
 PIN: 402 158 920#

This Application requests a **Special Permit** under Zoning Bylaw Section 5.2.2 to allow a change from one nonconforming use to another nonconforming use of medical or dental laboratory or clinic.

Any zoning relief that may be required in adherence to the Norwood Zoning Bylaw shall be considered by the Board. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the hearing and make their views known to the Board.

Plans are on file with this application in the office of the Zoning Board of Appeals and may be requested by emailing cped@norwoodma.gov Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Norwood Record:
10/05/23, 10/12/23