

**Town Lands Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**December 9, 2015**  
Approved January 12, 2016

Present: Ken Oehmig, Co-Chair, Jane Smith, Co-Chair, David Hackett, Hope Hilton, Ned Perry,  
and Jean Richter

Guest: Rick Daniel, Selectmen Liaison

Absent: John Loyd and Ellen Shillinglaw

The Committee met at 6:00 PM at the Town Offices with Co-Chairs Jane Smith and Ken Oehmig welcoming Rick Daniel who is the Selectmen Liaison to the Committee.

1. Approve Minutes  
The minutes of the Town Lands Committee meetings of October 13, 2015 and November 10, 2015 were approved after discussion of the earlier minutes.
2. Old Business
  - a. Any updated on ownership of Bar & Jenny islands – John Loyd’s email  
Based on a November 9 email from John Loyd, the Committee agreed that both Bar and Jenny belong to the State of Maine and are probably the responsibility of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
  - b. Giant’s Stairs sign about terrain  
The Committee discussed whether hikers would understand a “Black Diamond” designation or whether the sign at the end of the stone dust path should simply read “Rocky Trail Ahead.” The latter description was chosen which Ken said he would convey to Terri.
  - c. Update on feasibility study funding request – response from Terri  
The Committee reviewed and discussed the memo from Terri Sawyer in which she described steps that might be taken to delineate more parking at Bethel Point and rearrange parking at the Town Landing at the end of Holbrook Street. There followed a discussion of possible options for expanding the parking area at Bethel Point and significantly upgrading the Holbrook Town Landing. Rick thanked the Committee for the opportunity to better understand the long range planning that was being considered and said he would be better able to discuss the proposals when they are forward to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.
  - d. Update on Hildreth work  
The work has been done to try to expand the parking along the access road to the Town Landing at 56 Hildreth Road. While some expressed disappointment in the lack of width of the new parking area, all agreed it would facilitate parking by fishermen with a truck and trailer along side the access road. Ken continues to wonder if shoreline navigating and fishing rights include use of the tidal plain to turn trucks and trailers – as well as boats?
  - e. Info from Terri about Holbrook & Bethel Point Landings  
(See c above.)

3. Lobster trap disposal  
The Committee discussed its proposal for a lobster trap disposal day at the Transfer Station. It was explained that the idea grew out of a clean-up day at Mackerel Cove where discarded lobster traps continue to appear. Rick explained it is more important for the Committee to work with the Harbormaster to identify the owners of the discarded traps and have them be responsible for them than to support a special day at the Transfer Station.
4. Updates on Mitchell Field  
Rick reported that there had been many issues raised about Mitchell Field growing out of the workshop on Mitchell Field, the major one being the need to address the crumbling piers for safety in the area. He said the much discussed boat launch was in the master plan for Mitchell Field so there is good reason to bring a proposal to Town Meeting, but it may not be on the warrant in 2016. He said there are many other structures such as the water tower, the Gate House and several other structures that entities are interested in using. Ken mentioned he had heard individuals mentioning the possibility of creating an artificial reef and Jean mentioned she had seen references to a large travel lift being built for the landing. David mentioned he believes the landing would be little used by Harpswell fishermen but would be mostly use by people from Lewiston and away. Rick believes the Town needs to take a hard look at this significant opportunity to improve the standing of Harpswell as a town with an interchange with the sea. There also was a discussion of the Harpswell Coastal Academy using space at the landing at Brunswick and of the possible use of Mitchell Field as an open lab incubator for start up companies. Rick mentioned Jane Covey is the new Mitchell Field Committee Chair. The Committee thanked Rick for the thorough update on what is happening in and around Mitchell Field.
5. Permit for work abutting the Steamboat Road Landing  
The Committee next discussed an application from Steamboatyard, LLC to repair an existing pier off of 19 Steamboat Road. The applicant doesn't reference the Town Landing in the area nor the Town's right-of-way across the subject property. It was agreed Terri should be alerted about the Committee's concerns.
6. Acquisition of property  
The Committee discussed possible acquisitions of properties.
7. Stewardship reports to review at next meeting (suggest Tide Mill & Lookout Point)  
No action was taken on this agenda item.
8. Other  
Rick thanked the Committee for its hard work throughout the year and for the forward thinking being down about Town Lands.
9. Next Regular meeting: Tuesday, January 12 at 6:00 PM

Submitted by:  
Ned Perry