

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 21, 2021
Harpswell Town Office
Via Zoom
Approved February 4, 2021

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Selectmen Present: Chairman Kevin E. Johnson, Selectman David I. Chipman and Selectperson Jane G. Covey

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator; Paul Plummer, Harbormaster and Marine Resource Administrator; and Mark Eyerman, Town Planner.

Others Present: Mary Ann Nahf; Chair of the Conservation Commission; Allan LeGrow, Chair of the Planning Board.

Members of the Board and staff were participating by Zoom. The meeting was also being broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television and live streamed. The Chair read aloud the procedure for how members of the public could participate; such instructions were also included on the published agenda and on the website.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was accepted as written.
2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **Selectmen's Announcements:** Selectman Chipman read the Second Amendment of the US Constitution. Selectwoman Covey recognized the vigil held in Harpswell to honor those who lost their lives to COVID-19. Selectwoman Covey thanked the first responders and encouraged everyone to continue wear masks, be kind, be careful and be safe.
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Town Administrator Eiane reported that the Town has been contacted by Mid Coast Hospital about setting up communication regarding the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine will become available to the members of the community who are over 70 years old. Administrator Eiane encouraged residents to be patient; as the methods of communication become established, residents will be informed. The Town has been contacted by the Maine Warden Service to ask if our airboat can be used as a standby airboat for the Sebago Lake Ice Fishing Derby in February. The Board agreed to allow its use. Administrator Eiane also shared two proposals from residents for uses of Mitchell Field – one for a large solar array and one for paths through the meadows. These proposals will be forwarded to the Mitchell Field Committee for discussion.
5. **Consent Agenda: 1. Approval of the Minutes; 2. Letters of Support for Bicentennial Project; 3. Committee Resignations and Appointment; 4. Authorization of the Warrants.** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to approve

the consent agenda [01/07/21 minutes; letter of support; Joanne Rogers resignation from the Planning Board and Climate Resiliency Implementation Task Force; Tom Bachman's resignation from the Conservation Commission; appointed Daniel Hoebeke as a full member to the Planning Board; authorized warrant #4 in the amount of \$134,809.75 and payroll warrant #19,202.72]. Motion passed, 3-0.

- 6. Casco Bay Community Grant Application:** Mary Ann Nahf, Chair of the Conversation Commission, requested support to apply for a Casco Bay Community Grant for \$910. This grant would support the Harpswell Conservation Commission's effort to have experts present sea-level information via webinar and to cover related printing costs. The total project cost is approximately \$2,941. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to approve the grant application. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 7. Commercial Shellfish Conservation Fee Increase:** Harbormaster and Marine Resource Administrator Paul Plummer and the Marine Resource Committee proposed increasing the conservation fee waiver for shellfish harvesters who choose not to participate in conservation activities beginning in the 2022 licensing year. The increase would add an additional \$200 to the Resident Commercial and Non Resident Commercial license category. The increase is intended to incentivize shellfish harvesters to perform conservation. If all three conservation activities are completed during a licensing year, the fee would be waived. This proposal was reviewed and approved by the Budget Advisory Committee. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to approve the fee increase. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 9. Planner's Update: Comprehensive Plan, Long Range Plan:** Town Planner Mark Eyerman reviewed the topics of Long-Range Planning and Comprehensive Planning. These plans are complicated in nature and must meet the needs of the Town, while conforming to State Standards and subject to State Approval. It was suggested that there might be the formulation of a new 'comprehensive planning committee'. The Planning Board is willing to take on a multitude of these responsibilities, but will need additional community and Town support. This discussion was paused for the Public Hearing to take place.
- 8. 6:30 PM Public Hearing to Consider Closing Quahog Bay to Quahog Harvesting:** Harbormaster and Marine Resource Administrator Paul Plummer and the Marine Resource Committee proposed closing Quahog Bay to quahog harvesting from January 21, 2021 until June 20, 2021 to allow the quahogs time to spawn and replenish for the summer season. Scott Moody Jr and David Wilson, both members of the Town's Marine Resources Committee, spoke in favor of the proposal. Gretchen and Barry Catlin spoke against the proposal. Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to close Quahog Bay, North from the tip of West Cundy's Point, to the southern end of Long Point, from January 21, 2021 to June 20, 2021. Motion passed, 3-0. This proposal will be sent to Department of Marine Resources for finalization.
- 9. Planner's Update: Comprehensive Plan, Long Range Plan (Continued):** Planner Eyerman and Planning Board Chair Allan LeGrow continued to discuss how to undertake

these planning processes while being respectful of the desires of long-time and newer residents of Harpswell.

10. Technology and Communications Review including Harpswell Community

Broadcasting Corporation: Selectwoman Covey stated that the Town will be discussing new agreements both Comcast and Harpswell Community Broadcasting Center (HCBC). At this time, the Town does not have an official plan for communications. In preparation for these negotiations and creating a plan, Selectwoman Covey moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman, that the Select Board request the Town Administration survey a sample of Maine Town government communications operations (e.g., internet, cable, Facebook, websites, etc.) with a timeline to completion in approximately two months. Motion passed, 3-0. Selectwoman Covey also moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman, to seek more detailed information from the HCBC Board of Directors in the following areas: financial capacity, operating and service activities for each component of PEG; long-range planning including equipment and capital needs; and a fundraising plan for 2021 and beyond. Motion passed, 3-0.

11. Public Comment: None.

12. Other Business: Reconciliation meeting between Budget Advisory Committee and Select Board: February 8, 2021 at 3:00pm. Wage and Salary Workshop: February 1, 2021 at 3:00pm.

13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned without objection at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla Matthews
Recording Secretary