

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday April 1, 2021
Approved April 8, 2021
Harpswell Town Office
Via Zoom

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 and Treasurer; Paul Plummer, Harbor Master and Marine Resource Administrator; Gina Perow, Recreation Director.

Others Present: Tony Barrett, Recreation Committee; Mary Ann Nahf, Conservation Commission Chair; Mary Lee Fowler

Members of the Board, staff and presenters 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:** Mary Ann Nahf, Bailey Island spoke about the Conservation Commission hosting Town Cleanup day on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Trash bags to be used for the cleanup will be available at the Holbrook's, Bailey Island General Store and Pete's Market. These bags of trash can be left along the Town's main roads (Cundy's Harbor Road, Harpswell Islands Road, Mountain Road or Harpswell Neck Road) for pick up by Recycling Committee volunteers. The Marine Resources Committee will have a conservation day for harvesters to clean up the intertidal zone.
- 3. Selectmen's Announcements:** Selectman Chipman read the 8th Amendment to the US Constitution.
- 4. Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane commended Mary Ann Nahf for receiving the Doc Phillips award for her volunteerism, geared towards conservation and environmental issues. The Town is very grateful for Mary Ann's work. Eiane also stated that she will be meeting with CMP's Greg Thompson to further discuss 3-Phase power coming down Mountain Road.
- 5. Consent Agenda: 1. Approval of the Minutes; 2. Orr's Island Bridge Wharf Lease; 3. Authorization of the Warrants.** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to approve the consent agenda [acceptance of the 3/25/21 minutes, Lease to Jack Dunning on the Orr's Island Bridge and authorization of warrant #14 in the amount of \$119,434.48 and payroll warrant #13 in the amount of \$19,565.02.] Motion passed, 3-0.

- 6. Harbormaster Emergency Light Request:** Harbormaster Paul Plummer requested the Board of Selectmen consider authorizing him and the Deputy Harbormaster to utilize red or a combination of red and white auxiliary lights in the Town "Harbormaster" vehicle when responding to watercraft emergencies. With 216 miles of coastline, it can be difficult to respond to the boat depending on its location during the warm months when Harpswell traffic is congested from summer residents and tourism. This would provide a quicker response to the town boat when minutes count. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to approve the Harbormaster and Deputy Harbormaster's use of emergency lights. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 7. Cliff Trail Project Update:** Recreation Director Gina Perow updated the Board on the Cliff Trail Rehab project. Selectwoman Covey moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to approve the recommendations by the Recreation Committee for closing the first half-mile of the Cliff trail from May 1- October 1 and to close off the rear portion of the Town Office's back parking lot. Motion passed, 3-0. Tony Barrett, Recreation Committee member and liaison for Cliff Trail Rehab project, updated the Board about the project schedule, budget increase and fundraising progress. Barrett asked community members to loan a tractor with a front end loader to help fill wheelbarrows. Additionally, lodging is needed for the crew, specifically a private location to camp. Fundraising efforts are underway, any donations to the project are greatly appreciated.
- 8. Carbon Cashback Resolution:** Tony Barrett presented a request to the Select Board to approve the Carbon Cashback Resolution. The resolution would encourage our federal representatives to pass efficient, fair legislation to address the risks of climate disruption by using cash-back carbon pricing. This solution puts a steadily rising carbon fee on fossil fuel production (oil and gas wells and coal mines), as well as on imports, and rebates all the money collected (minus administration costs) back to all households on an equal basis as a dividend. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey to approve sending the Carbon Cashback Resolution to elected State and Federal representatives. There were reservations from Chairman Johnson about the impact of rising fuel prices to our local businesses, fisherman and truckers. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 9. Draft 2021 Town Meeting Warrant and Budget:** Administrator Eiane stated that the 2021 warrant will be voted on by secret ballot in lieu of the regular town meeting. Residents will be able to vote in person June 8, 2021 or they may vote via absentee ballot up to 30 days before the vote. Administrator Eiane reviewed the articles in the warrant. In Article 2 the operations budget would decrease by \$2,900 due to the closure of the Bowdoin Pool to the public through the end of 2021, thus cancelling summer swim and fall family swim. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey to reduce the budget amount in Article 2 from \$4,726,003 to \$4,723,103. Motion passed, 3-0. In Article 15, Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey to fix the date of September 15, 2021 as the date when the first one-half of taxes shall be due and payable, with interest on the first installment to start after that date, and the date of December 15, 2021 as the date when the second one-half of taxes are due and payable, with interest on the second installment to start after that date, and to see if the Town will vote to charge a 3% rate of interest on unpaid taxes; (2) authorize the Tax Collector to

accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed, as a service to our taxpayers with any excess prepaid over the amount finally committed shall be repaid without interest; and (3) to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at 3% for the period of assessment and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from unassigned fund balance. Motion passed, 3-0. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey to schedule the public hearing to discuss the June 8th warrant for May 6, 2021 at 6:00pm. Motion passed, 3-0.

10. Public Comment: None.

11. Other Business: Selectman Chipman noted that he's received complaints that some people are not following dog leashing rules at both Mitchell Field and Cliff Trail.

12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla Matthews
Recording Secretary

Attachments: Carbon Cashback Resolution