

**Harpswell Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday April 21, 2026  
Harpswell Town Office  
APPROVED 5-21-26**

**Selectmen Present:** Chairman Kevin E. Johnson; Selectman David I. Chipman; Selectman Matthew Gilley.

**Staff Present:** Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Gaudet, Treasurer & Deputy Town Administrator.

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** No changes.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Pre-construction Services Agreement with Wright-Ryan:** The Board unanimously authorized a **\$15,000 pre-construction services agreement** with Wright-Ryan for the new Emergency Services Building. This agreement covers approximately seven months of planning work ahead of construction. A proposal to formally establish a Building Committee will come before the Board later in the week. Wetlands work required for the project is underway.
4. **Use of Special Revenue Fund for Recreation for Trufant-Summerton Field - Snack Shack Repairs:** The Board unanimously approved **up to \$4,000** for materials to repair the aging snack shack at Trufant Summerton Field. Volunteers have already begun drainage improvements and plan to complete the remaining work on April 23 (rain date April 30). Cost-saving adjustments—such as eliminating an unneeded door and window—reduced the total materials cost to roughly \$3,400.
5. **Workshop Re: 2026-2027 Goals & Objectives:** Select Board members compared earlier goal documents with a new list of suggested focus areas and identified themes for the coming year:

***Preserving Community Character:*** The Board emphasized protecting Harpswell’s rural identity, working waterfront, and natural beauty while helping new residents understand the town’s history and culture.

***Financial Sustainability:*** Members reaffirmed the importance of disciplined budgeting, long-term capital planning, and pursuing grants to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

***Working Waterfront & Local Economy:*** The Board expressed strong support for maintaining waterfront access, sustaining the fishing industry, and avoiding large-scale overdevelopment.

***Infrastructure & Climate Resilience:*** Priorities include road and culvert upgrades, ongoing climate-resilience planning, and major capital projects such as: a) new Emergency Services Building; b) Recycling Center improvements; c) Ocean Street upgrades.

***Communications & Public Engagement:*** The Board discussed expanding video recording and streaming of committee meetings and potentially purchasing an additional portable camera to support broader coverage.

***Comprehensive Plan Implementation:*** Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan is already underway and will be elevated as a top priority.

***Support for Staff & Volunteers:*** Board members noted that Harpswell's staff and volunteer committees remain a strength and will continue to receive support.

***Quality of Life & Public Services:*** The Board highlighted the importance of reliable emergency services, recreation opportunities, and year-round livability.

***Environmental Protection:*** Topics included potential updates to pesticide regulations near the Shoreland, ecological impacts of mosquito and tick spraying, and continued support for the Resiliency & Sustainability Committee.

***Economic Vitality:*** The Select Board discussed the fishing industry, tourism, and the impacts of vacation rentals. Members expressed interest in converting the Town's Right to Fish policy into a Right to Fish & Farm Ordinance.

**Mitchell Field Master Plan & Generator Building:** The Board discussed the ongoing update to the Mitchell Field Master Plan and emphasized the need for:

- Strong public engagement
- Regular Select Board involvement
- Transparency throughout the process

The generator building at Mitchell Field contains hazardous materials requiring an estimated **\$200,000** cleanup. The Board expressed interest in pursuing grants rather than using tax dollars and noted the building's potential value for maintenance and storage if remediated.

**Housing, Community Wellness & State Requirements:** The Board acknowledged upcoming state-mandated housing changes that must be implemented by 2027 and discussed ongoing partnerships supporting aging in place, youth wellness, and community services.

**Next Steps:** Town staff will merge the existing goals document with new ideas from the Meeting and present a draft at a future meeting. The Board will meet again on Thursday for an executive session regarding cable franchise negotiations.

**6. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hubbard  
Recording Secretary  
w/AI assistance

Attachments: None

[Attachments are available at the Town Clerk's Office or by email at [harpswell@town.harpswell.me.us](mailto:harpswell@town.harpswell.me.us)]