

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 13, 2021
Harpswell Town Office
Via Zoom
Approved May 27, 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 and Treasurer; Paul Plummer, Harbormaster; Tim Clark, Code Enforcement

Others Present: Greg Thompson, Central Maine Power; Patrick Voit, Central Maine Power; Joe LeBlanc, LeBlanc Associates, Inc.; Tim Forrester, Atlantic Environmental

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 printed.
- 2. Public Comment:** None.
- 3. Selectmen's Announcements:** Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman, to accept a \$6,850 donation from Cook's Lobster & Ale House for Heating Assistance and acknowledge a donation from Maine Standard Bio Fuels for 900 Gallons of heating fuel donated to residents. Motion passed, 3-0. Greg Thompson of Central Maine Power (CMP) presented the Board and Town Administration with a donation of \$15,000 for the Cliff Trail Project. Thompson stated that the Cliff Trail rehabilitation project, to make the trail ADA accessible, aligns with CMP's goals as a community partner and steward. Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman, to accept the \$15,000 donation from Central Maine Power for the Cliff Trail Project. Motion passed, 3-0. Selectman Chipman shared the results of John Gilliam Day. Residents and volunteer collected 4,180 pounds of material from the road sides. Selectman Chipman stated his appreciation to members of the Conservation Commission and Recycling Committee who helped with organization and collection. Chipman also thanked Recreation Director Gina Perow for assembling snack and water kits for volunteers. Selectwoman Covey stated that the Curtis Memoria Library will be reopening May 17, 2021 with many new upgrades and services.
- 4. Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane stated that there is a federal program called the Emergency Broadband Benefit. The federal government set aside money for people to use toward their broadband internet bills for people who have suffered a loss in income as a result of the pandemic. Curtis Memorial Librarians can

assist people in applying for this benefit. The application information can be found on the Town website.

- Recommendation to Hire: The Harpswell Community Garden requests the Board's approval to hire John Paul Rietz for the part-time seasonal position. Rietz has considerable organic gardening experience and is fully knowledgeable in all the key areas for the position. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to hire John Paul Rietz for the community garden position. Motion passed, 3-0.

Administrator Eiane stated that absentee ballots are now available at the Town Clerk's office for the upcoming vote on June 8th. There will be an informational article in the first edition of the new Harpswell Anchor, due out at the end of this month. There is another public hearing scheduled for Monday May 17th at 6:00pm via Zoom to discuss the warrant articles. The first hearing was held on May 6 and allowed for in-person at the Harpswell Community School, phone in questions and via Zoom. Voting in-person will be available at Harpswell Community School from 8:00am to 8:00pm for both the school budget and municipal budget.

- 5. Consent Agenda: 1. Approval of the Minutes; 2. Committee Appointments; 3. Authorization of the Warrants.** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to approve the consent agenda [minutes from 4/22/21 and 5/6/21; E. Jeffrey Stann to the Town Lands Committee, Frank O. Holdgate to the Harbor and Waterfront Committee, and Robert J. Boyce II to the Marine Resources Committee; and warrant #20 in the amount of \$804,578.88 and payroll warrant #19 in the amount of \$20,874.00]. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 6. Letter of support for Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Work Group Grant Application:** Harbormaster Paul Plummer asked for the Board's support in signing a letter of support for the Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Work Group Grant Application. The Board reached consensus and approved that Plummer sign the document.
- 7. Wharf Applications:**
 - 1. Marcovitch/Eplan Follow-Up:** A conditional approval was granted at a previous Board meeting, pending approval from the Harbormaster. The Harbormaster and Marine Resource Committee came forth with an additional condition, requiring a new motion for final approval. Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman, to approve the application as the Harbormaster indicates there is no hazard to navigation, no injury to the rights of others in relation to fishing, fowling or navigation, with the condition that the wharf not be installed on the mudflats from October 1st to May 31st annually. This is in line with conditional shellfish closure in the area that prohibits the harvest of shellfish during times the float would be authorized to be on the mudflats. Motion passed, 3-0.
 - 2. Thomas and Cynthia Mulcahy, Map 19, Lot 31, 26 Potts Point Rd:** Joe LeBlanc spoke on behalf of the applicants to explain the project. The proposed construction would strengthen the existing rock-filled crib with cross-beam supports; add short posts to independently support the existing bridge; add a 3' x 45' aluminum ramp, a pressure treated wood 10' x 20' float and an 8' seasonal ramp support. Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman, to approve the application as the Harbormaster

indicates there is no hazard to navigation, no injury to the rights of others in relation to fishing, fowling or navigation. Motion passed, 3-0.

3. Karen Sturges, Map 11, Lot 97, 25 Diamond Spring Rd: Tim Forrester from Atlantic Environmental described the project on behalf of the applicant. The proposed project would construct a dock consisting of a 6' x 26' pier, a 3' x 32' ramp and a 12' x 20' float. The ramp will be stored on the pier and the float will be stored in an upland location on site. Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman, to approve the application as the Harbormaster indicates there is no hazard to navigation, no injury to the rights of others in relation to fishing, fowling or navigation. Motion passed, 3-0.

- 8. Recycling Center Matters: 1. Sole Source for Wood Grinding:** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to sole source wood grinding with Cross Excavation. Motion passed, 3-0. ; **2. Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership Disposal:** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to waive the fees associated with HIPP disposing of invasive plants removed from public spaces. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 9. Limited Overnight Parking at Mitchell Field:** The Town continues to receive requests for authorization to park overnight at Mitchell Field. These requests are in conjunction with planned extended boat outings to the islands of Casco Bay by either excursion companies or boat owners who have a mooring off Mitchell Field. The Mitchell Field Waterfront Working Group (MFWWG) was tasked with developing a policy/recommendations with regard to overnight parking at Mitchell Field. The Board briefly discussed the memo received by the MFWWG and decided that more data about parking fees and what's needed before the Board would begin the pilot program. Town staff will continue to finalize proposal and present again later this month.
- 10. Blue Sky Town Permit Fee:** The Town Code Office presented two options for permitting fees for the Blue Sky building permit fee. Option 1 would charge a fee based on the construction of an equipment building and the Tower platform, for a total fee of \$490.10. Any future buildings would need their own permit. Option 2 would charge a fee based on the total fenced in area, for a fee of \$1520. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to use option 1, charging a fee of \$490.10. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 11. June 1, 2021 Special Town Meeting Warrant:** There will be a special Town Meeting June 1, 2021 to discuss two articles that did not make the deadline to be on the June 8th ballot. The Board agreed to hold off authorizing the warrant until Monday to allow some time for a possible third article.
- 12. Requests for Proposals for \$650,000 Borrowing for Capital Road Project:** Town Treasurer Terri Sawyer summarized the request for proposal for \$650,000 for the Capital Road Project, contingent on voter approval on 6/8/21. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to approve submitting the requests for proposals to banking institutions. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 13. Treasurer's Report:** Town Treasurer Terri Sawyer reviewed the Treasurer's report for April 2021. (See attached document.)

14. Request to Abate Taxes Pursuant to 36 MRSA 841 § (3) Due to Absence: The Board was presented with a request from the Tax Collector to abate taxes on a trailer that was torn down and disposed of. The former owner cannot be reached. Under statute 36MRSA § (3) the Tax Collector is allowed to request an abatement from the Selectmen. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to abate the \$404.37 in outstanding taxes, and to include the fees and interest. Motion passed, 3-0.

15. Public Comment: None.

16. Other Business: Selectman Chipman was approached about posting signs about fireworks ordinances in Town for visitors, as well as adding a war memorial in Town to include The Korean War and the Gulf War. An Orr's Island Bridge wharf lease was received from Paul Morgan. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to approve the lease with Paul Morgan. Motion passed, 3-0.

17. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla Matthews
Recording Secretary

Attachments: Treasurer's Report