

**Town of Harpswell
Town Lands Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Town Commons, Route 123
June 13, 2022**

Present : Ken Oehmig and Hope Hilton, co-Chairs, Jane Smith, David Hackett, Tom Carr,
Associate Ned Perry, Committee Selectperson Jane Covey

Absent: Harbormaster Paul Plummer

Guests: Kristi Eiane, Town Manager; David Chipman, Selectman; David Taft, Brunswick
Rotary Club; Jeremy Jones, Janice Thompson

May minutes accepted without changes.

With the presence of guests, some items on the agenda were taken out of order for the
convenience of the parties.

New Business:

1. Town Pound Request for Historic Sign: On site: David Taft from Brunswick Rotary presented an outline of what the Rotary does on documenting historic sites in the area. They have done sites at Holbrook's Wharf, Skolfield Preserve, Mill Cove, and others. Photographs of other signs were circulated to those present. His group pays for the sign itself, then asks the town or local groups to pay for the installation on site. A draft of the proposed sign language was circulated and given to Kristi to present to the Selectmen for review and approval if the proposal is accepted by them. Given the nature of the sign and the limited language in it, the Town Lands Committee had no objection to the proposal.
2. Request for access across Town Commons: On site: Jeremy Jones and Janice Thompson presented information on their access and lands adjacent to the Town Commons. This included various maps and sections of sketches of the area. The Committee and guests inspected the stone wall between the Jones/Thompson lands and the Town Commons, as well as the right of way that is and has been used by the Jones/Thompsons and their predecessors. Also inspected was the driveway area used by previous owners of the Jones/Thompson lands further south from the existing right of way along the stone wall. That driveway was partially filled in so that it is now only used for pedestrian access from Route 123 across the Town Commons to the Jones/Thompson lands. Possible entrances were discussed including immediately adjacent to the current right of way, the former driveway entrance, the area between the Historical Society building and the Town Commons, and the right of way described in the deed to Jones/Thompson which runs behind the Historical Society. Each presented technical difficulties. After a general discussion, the Committee agreed that there was not enough technical information on actual boundary lines between the Jones/Thompson land and that of Joe Andrews. It was suggested that Jones/Thompson discuss access with the Hathaways, the prior owners of their land and the adjacent owners over whose land an unconstructed right of way exists. Accordingly, the Committee took no action on the proposal at this time.

3. Leases at the Causeway to Orrs Island. In Meeting House. The Selectmen asked the committee to consider and comment on the subject of leasing at this site. It is believed that there are 7 annual leases at this time, paying \$100/year. The last review of this issue was more than 10 years ago. Ken Oehmig and Ned Perry conducted a site visit by water before this meeting. A few of the lease sites appeared to be unused and in poor condition. At least one float was out of the water. It is not clear who inspects these leaseholds and when, nor the actual number and current status of each lease. Concerns were raised about parking which at times is crowded. Also discussed was the proximity of Route 24 where there are high volumes of traffic moving at high speeds on this narrow curve of the road. Paul Plummer will be asked to obtain the records for the committee's review. No specific recommendation was made at this time, pending further information.

Old Business: in Meeting House:

1. R & S Committee: Ken gave an update on the status of that committee which is now meeting monthly. The Town has received one grant for use on lighting. The State provides GOPIF grants to municipalities for climate change-related projects. For the first round the R & S Committee is requested funds for energy efficient lighting for municipal buildings. It was asked whether further grant funds could be used on buildings, landings, and roads due to sea level rising. The next meeting is July 21st.
2. Giant Stairs trail maintenance: Paul will be contacted for an update on the status of this.
3. Bailey Island Toilet: Still no progress on finding a site for installation. Ken will follow up with Paul.
4. Bethel Point Toilet: concerns were presented again about the current location of the toilet. In the last few years, the committee and harbor master had spent a considerable amount of time on researching and resolving the location of a portable toilet at this landing. Jane Covey asked the committee for assistance by providing a memo to the Select Board on the history on the needs for a toilet at the landing and other sites around Bethel Point that have been reviewed as a possible locations. The committee had found that under current conditions, the only feasible site is where the portable toilet is now located.
5. Steward Reports:
Potts Point Landing: a draft report has been sent by Ned Perry to Ken but has not been finalized yet. It is apparent that grass cuttings and other organic material are being dumped along the edge of the road, near the cliff edge. Some of this material is falling onto the rocks and into the water. Paul Plummer will be asked to post signs prohibiting any dumping at this location.

The Committee thanks David Hackett for use of the Meeting House given the inclement weather during the meeting.

Next Meeting Monday, **Monday, July 11, 2022 at 5 pm at the Cliff Trail**

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.