

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2022
Harpswell Town Office

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

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

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Gaudet, Deputy Town Administrator & Treasurer; Debbie Turner, Assessor; Tim Clark, Codes Officer; Gina Caldwell and Kayla Matthews, Recreation; and Ron Ponziani, Road Commissioner.

Members of the Board and staff were participating by Zoom. The meeting was also being broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television, live streamed on Vimeo and the Town's Facebook page. 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 adopted as written.
2. **Public Comment: None**
3. **Selectmen's Announcements:** Selectman Johnson thanked all those involved with getting the fire on Great Island under control. Selectman Chipman reminded the public that it was safer to walk on the road facing traffic. He also reported that Community TV was experimenting with the ability to place programming information on the screen.
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane reported that Margaret McIntire in Codes has taken on additional responsibility in the Codes Office and she recommended that Margaret McIntire be promoted to Assistant Code Officer & Assistant Planner effective June 26, 2022 and increase her wages by \$2.00 per hour. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to promote Ms. McIntire. Motion passed 3-0. Administrator Eiane also reported that Gerard Ferrari, the new Animal Control Officer, had completed all of the training that the State currently has available and that she was recommending his daily stipend be increased by \$10. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to increase Mr. Ferrari's stipend. Administrator Eiane also thanked everyone who assisted in fighting the fire on Great Island.
5. **Consent Agenda:** 1) **Approval of the Minutes** 2) **Central Maine Power Pole Permit.** 3) **Authorization of the Warrants.** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to accept the consent agenda. [1) Minutes 7-21-22. 2) Pole Permit on Allen Point Road. 3) Warrant #31 in the amount of \$180,422.72, and payroll warrant #30 in the amount of \$24,363.28]. Motion passed 3-0.
6. **Adopt Proposal to Adjust Assessing Values for 2022 Tax Year:** Town Assessor Debbie Turner reported that KRT had completed their work on tables and sales assessments. She recommended the Board accept the changes and reported it would bring the assessments closer to market value. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to accept the changes. Motion passed 3-0.

7. **Wharf Applications:** Tim Clark, Codes Officer, reported that he had visited all 5 sites and did not find any issues and that the Lounder's had paid the fine and submitted an acceptable replanting plan. **1) Avrohm Melnick, Map 41, Lot 35, 92 Lombos Hole Rd.** 5X32' pier, seasonal 3X45' ramp, 10X20' float and 30' float haulout, Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to approve the application as the Harbormaster indicates there is no issue with navigation and the application does not cause injury to the rights of others in relation to fishing, fowling or navigating. Motion passed 3-0; **2) Charles and Rachel Lounder, Map 51 Lot 63, Sebascodegan Shores Rd.** 4X4' landing, connecting to a 4X16' access steps, a 6X6 pier, a 3' 32' ramp and 10X16' float. Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to approve the application as the Harbormaster indicates there is no issue with navigation and the application does not cause injury to the rights of others in relation to fishing, fowling or navigating. Motion passed 3-0; **3) 35 LPC, LLC, Map 52, Lot 110, 35 Laurel Point Circle,** Tim Clark confirmed that the owner of the property also owned the abutting property so no letter in regard to setback was needed for a 3X4' steps, 4X40' pier, reconstruct a 32' float haul out, seasonal 3X40' ramp and 10'X20' float. Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to approve the application as the Harbormaster indicates there is no issue with navigation and the application does not cause injury to the rights of others in relation to fishing, fowling or navigating. Motion passed 3-0; **4) Nicolas Lincon, Map 53 Lot 79, 22 Wallace Shore Rd. Ext.** 5X65' pier supported by 14 8X8" pilings, seasonal 3X45" ramp and 12X20' float. Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to approve the application as the Harbormaster indicates there is no issue with navigation and the application does not cause injury to the rights of others in relation to fishing, fowling or navigating. Motion passed 3-0; **5) Katherine Larson Revocable Trust, Map 28, Lot 16, 1780 Harpswell Island Road** 5X10' pier supported by 8X8" pilings, a 5X35" pier supported by 8X8' timber and stone crib, seasonal 3X45' ramp and 8X28' float. Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to approve the application as the Harbormaster indicates there is no issue with navigation and the application does not cause injury to the rights of others in relation to fishing, fowling or navigating. Motion passed 3-0
8. **Dog Leash Statistics on Cliff Trail:** Gina Caldwell, Recreation Director, reported that review of the game camera showed 84% compliance with dog leash rules. She suggested that the Animal Control Officer be provided with leashes to aid in having conversations with owners of dogs off leash. She also recommended Skofield Shores for individuals who would like to avoid dogs, as they are not allowed there. The Board concurred that there be some continued monitoring of the situation.
9. **Harpswell Anchor's Request for Use of Mitchell Field.** Gina Caldwell, reported that the Harpswell Anchor would like to host an appreciation event, for approximately 250 people. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Cove to allow the use of Mitchell Field on August 21, 2022 and to waive the fee. Motion passed 3-0
10. **Agreement with Harpswell Community Broadcast Corporation:** Selectman Chipman reported that as President of the HCBC Board that he would like to reserve the right to be part of the discussion, but that he would not vote. Selectman Covey thanked Donna Frisoli and the members of the Board of HCBC for their work in coming to a new agreement regarding the long standing relationship between Community Television and the Town. She reported that HCBC would be partnering with the Town to develop hybrid meetings so that committees could simultaneously attend both in person and remotely, and that the Town would be updating its website. The new agreement will be for five years, there is a framework for joint planning and coordination, and the agreement has clarified the reporting which the Town will be requiring from HCBC. Administrator Eiane also thanked Donna Frisoli, for her hard work. She stated that the Town would be taking on the responsibility of archiving and

streaming Board and Committee meetings. Selectman Covey moved, seconded by Selectman Johnson to accept the agreement as written. Motion passed 2-0.

11. **Basin Point Road Capital Road Project:** Selectman Chipman reported that residents on Basin Point Road were concerned about safety in regard to speed if the road were widened. Ron Ponziani, Road Commissioner, expressed concerns about the cost of delaying the project, and that the road was not currently wide enough for two cars to pass. Will Haskell, Engineer from Gorrill Palmer, suggested a temporary rubber speed pillow which could be removed for plowing in the winter, along with other possible measures such as painting which would give the appearance of less width. Residents on Basin Point Road expressed concern over moving forward with the project without addressing the safety issues of widening the road. The Board concurred that they would address measures which could be taken to slow traffic after the completion of the project. Selectman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to send a request for proposals out to bid. Motion passed 3-0.
12. **Except Donation from Mike Webber Enterprises, Inc.:** Mike Webber Enterprises, Inc. completed landscape improvements at the Harpswell Community Garden, and would like to donate the labor and materials involved. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to accept the donation. Motion passed 3-0.
13. **LD290 Property Tax Stabilization Law:** Selectmen Covey presented the Board with a letter to the editor which encourages seniors who are in need of this tax break to apply for it, but as the new bill lacks a mandate for economic eligibility, requests that those who are not in need forgo applying as this may tend to shift the tax burden to young families who are also struggling. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectmen Covey to submit the letter to the Harpswell Anchor. Motion passed 3-0.
14. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Gaudet reported on the Town's Finances as of July 31, 2022 [See Attached.]
15. **Maine Municipal Association Annual Election:** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey, to vote for all candidates on the Maine Municipal Association ballot. Motion passed 3-0.
16. **Public Comment:** None
17. **Other Business:** Selectman Chipman asked if there would be a Nonresident Taxpayer Meeting this year. The Board and Staff concurred that there would not, as there was not an in person Town Meeting. He also asked the public not to leave their cars running when they are not in them.
18. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Peek
Recording Secretary