

Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2023
Harpswell Town Office
Approved 9/14/2023

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Paul Plummer, Harbormaster; and Tim Clark, Code Enforcement Officer.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted with the removal of the Committee Resignation from the Consent Agenda.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Selectmen's Announcements:** Selectman Chipman reported that the call-in show on HCTV for the Comprehensive Plan did not air on the Comcast cable channel due to issues on Comcast's end. He offered to do another call-in show. Chairman Johnson recognized the contributions to the Town of Fred Perry, who passed away recently.
4. **Town Administrator's Report: 1) Update on Little Mark Island:** Administrator Eiane reported that the Town had been notified by the General Services Administration that the Town's letter of interest to acquire Little Mark Island had been received. She reported that one person could attend a site visit on September 7, 2023, she recommended that Chairman Johnson represent the Town on that visit. She also report that two people could attend an informational session on that same date, and recommended herself and the Town Planner. She reported that the Voters would have to approve the application, and that if the Board would like to move forward, a special meeting could be held on September 7, 2023 to approve a warrant article for the November ballot. **2) Recommendation for Hire:** Administrator Eiane reported that the Town's interview team was recommending that Tina Deschaine be hired as the Town's new Multi-Office Assistant. She would replace Denise Perry who is now working in the Code Enforcement Office. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to hire Tina Deschaine starting at \$20.00 per hour. Motion passed 3-0. Administrator Eiane also reported that on the previous evening there was a hybrid meeting held in the Selectman's Meeting Room to discuss the possible uses of the Administration Building at Mitchell Field. She reported that 40-50 members of the public attended to share ideas.
5. **Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of the Minutes; 2) Committee Appointment and Resignation; 3) Accept Donation in Lieu of Taxes. 4) Authorization of the Warrants;** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to accept the consent agenda. [1) Minutes 8-10-23s and 8-17-23. 2) Appointment of Tom Carr to the Town Lands Committee, ~~and resignation of Monique Coombs from the Comprehensive Plan Committee.~~ 3) Donation from the Nature Conservancy of \$232.78. 4) Warrant #35 in the amount of \$232,873.35 and payroll warrant #34 in the amount of \$25,781.83]. Motion passed 3-0.

6. **[6:15] Public Hearing to Re-open Quahog Bay to Shellfish Harvesting.** Harbormaster Plummer reported that the Marine Resource Committee had recommended the conservation closure of Quahog Bay until October 1, 2023. He reported that the Committee is now recommending re-opening Quahog Bay to prevent over harvesting in other areas of Town. He reported that if approved, the Bay could re-open on September 6, 2023 at 12:01am. No members of the public spoke. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to re-open Quahog Bay to harvesting. Motion passed 3-0.
7. **Harbormaster Items:** Paul Plummer, Harbormaster, reported that on August 23, 2023, he accompanied scientists from the U.S. Navy and Maine Department of Environmental Protection in the Town's airboat, to identify sites to test for PFAS contamination following the remediation in the Picnic Ponds, which were located on the former Brunswick Naval Air Station at the head of Harpswell Cove. He reported that shellfish samples would be collected and tested at the end of September. Next, the Harbormaster reported on a sunken boat in Mackerel Cove. He reported that the vessel belonged to Donald Freeman, and that on June 6, Mr. Freeman had reported that there was no motor or fuel on board, and agreed to remove the boat or return it to its mooring by September 1, 2023. He recommended that the Board declare the vessel abandoned so that next steps could be taken to formally notify Mr. Freeman that the vessel must be removed or the Town would seek further action. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to declare the vessel abandoned. Motion passed 3-0.
8. **Wharf Application:** Jon & Kimberly Tanguay, Map 11 Lot 107 – 11 Whidden Road. Tim Clark, Code Enforcement Officer, report that the applicants sought to construct a 16' x 66' Commercial Dock for Private Use. He reported that there were two site visits and that the abutters had no issue. 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.
9. **Dark Sky Designation:** Howard Marshall reported that he was a member of the Southern Maine Astronomers, and that the group was seeking locations to view the sky at night with little light pollution. He talked about the Town's choice of street lights which were being used as an example of a type of light which causes less light pollution. He recommended Mitchell Field for a possible Dark Sky Designation. The Board discussed possibilities, including a lighting policy at Mitchell Field.
10. **Request for Use of Mitchell Field:** Administrator Eiane reported that the Town received an application from an individual whose son was killed in Ukraine. The applicant is seeking a fee waiver for an event at Mitchell Field sometime in September 2023. The Board concurred that they would discuss with the Mitchell Field Committee and bring this item back to the next meeting.
11. **Catalis Contract for Mass Notifications Communication Module:** Administrator Eiane reported that the Mass Communication Module was part of the Town's new website which had been approved at Town Meeting using ARPA funds. She reported that this feature would allow the public to request specific notifications. Selectman Covey moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to approve the three year contract with Catalis for Mass Notifications at \$4,995 for the first year, and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign it. Motion passed 3-0.
12. **Public Comment:** Penny Winter spoke in support of the Dark Sky Designation.
13. **Other Business:** Administrator Eiane reported she was seeking other dates to meet with the residents in the Gurnet area due to conflicts with the original September 7, 2023 date.

14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Peek

Recording Secretary