

Islesboro News & Notes

Planning Board

Planning Board Members: Chair Bill Schoppe, Vice Chair Isabelle Jackson, Secretary Jennifer West. Members- Gil Rivera, Jesse Burns. Alternate Roger Burke. CEO Dave Dyer. Secretary to the Board: Carrie Reed.

The following items were discussed and/or acted upon during meetings on February 7th (one meeting was cancelled) and March 14. Meeting minutes are available at the town office or online at www.townofislesboro.com

Land Use Ordinance

LU 43-21, Islesboro Marine Enterprises for Marc De St. Maurice, Map 16, Lot 11, 418 West Bay Road. To construct a 4'x75' fixed pier with 8 pilings, a seasonal 40' ramp and a 12'x24' float. Site reviews required by Board and Harbor Master were successful. Initially tabled for resolution of abutters appeal of DEP permit; the appeal was subsequently denied. **Application approved.**

Planning Board Meetings
April 11 & 25, May 9 & 23, June 6
Meetings are now being held in person and via Zoom. Contact the Town Office for the link.

Municipal Building Project Update

At its meeting on February 17th the Select Board approved a contract with Stephen Blatt Architects of Portland for the design of the Municipal Building Project, which includes a new Health Center building, the renovation of existing space in the Municipal Building for Public Safety, and an up-island Public Safety Garage.

Initially, in May 2021, the Select Board contracted with 2A Architects to prepare a schematic design for the new Health Center building, but 2A found that they were not sufficiently experienced in the regulations associated with rural health care facility design, and early in 2022 asked to end the contract. The Select Board agreed; 2A will not charge for work done to date.

Stephen Blatt Architects, founded in 1976, has five licensed architects on staff. Their portfolio ranges from private homes to buildings for major institutions, including the recently-completed Visitor Center at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay. The firm has designed several medical facilities, including a rural health center,

Stephen Blatt, founder of the firm that bears his name, is no stranger to Islesboro. He was the architect for the extensive renovation of the Islesboro Central School building in 2008/2010 and designed the Islesboro Preschool's new building, which opened in 2017. In 2018, Steve provided the Town Centers Committee with conceptual drawings of the Post Office Town Center. A summer resident of Vinalhaven, Steve is familiar with island communities; he currently serves on the board of the Vinalhaven Medical Center.

In June, Stephen Blatt expects to submit a schematic design and cost estimate for a new Health Center building as well as plans and cost estimates for the renovation of the Public Safety space in the Municipal Building and the up-island Public Safety Garage. Through meetings and a variety of other means the Municipal Building Project Committee will provide the community with detailed information about the project, which may come up for a vote at a Special Town Meeting as early as August. If it is approved, construction could begin in spring 2023.

Submitted by the Municipal Building Project Committee

Select Board

Chair Gabe Pendleton, Vice Chair Shey Conover. Members- Lauren Bruce, Melissa Burns, Phil Seymour. Town Manager Janet Anderson.

The following items were discussed and/or acted upon during meetings in February and March.

2022 Annual Town Meeting

Hurray! At this point the plan is to have an in-person Town Meeting. As of this writing (3/28) the date has not been set.

Appointments

- Energy Committee: Joshua Leach
- Grindle Point Sailor's Museum: Melissa Olson
- Groundwater Protection: Pamela Larson
- Safe Roads: Trish Goodspeed

Big Tree Recreation Dock

To date, \$32,265 has been received in donations for the Big Tree Recreation dock on the land donated to the Town by Islesboro Islands Trust. Donations to this project should be made out to the Town of Islesboro and earmarked "Big Tree Recreation Dock Project" Gifts are tax deductible and acknowledgements will be sent to donors with the necessary tax-exempt information.

Expiring terms

The Board terms for Phil Seymour and Lauren Bruce expire with the 2022 Town Meeting. Both have decided to run again. To date no one has taken out nomination papers because they aren't available until the meeting date is set.

Ferry Update

At the March 17th meeting, G. Pendleton reported that due to an extreme staffing shortage, the MSFS has had to bump up its pay scale in hopes of attracting potential crew. Whether or not this translates into increased fares is yet to be seen. MSFS Manager Mark Higgins came to the island on March 9th and met with the Board and others to talk about a number of issues, including the planning and design of the ferry that will one day replace the *Margaret Chase Smith*. (Please related article by Islesboro's Advisory Board Rep. John King on Page 1)

Grindle Point Light

Members of the Lighthouse Committee and J. Anderson met on Jan. 19th with Jim Leslie, who restored the Burnt Coat Light Station on Swan's Island and Al Hodson from Resurgence Engineering of Portland which was hired by the Town to undertake an assessment of the several buildings; to develop project phasing recommendations; provide an opinion of probable rehabilitation costs; and describe strategies to address sea level rise. The fee for the work is \$18,000. Committee member Dave Petzel applied for a \$10,000 Shore-Up grant from the Island Institute to cover some of the cost. The committee voted to undertake a Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program to assess the collections, buildings and building systems, as well as polices and procedures relating to collections care. The assessment involves a site visit by the assessors, who will spend two days touring the museum and talking to staff and Town officials and then prepare a comprehensive report. The associated costs are for transportation, food and lodging for the two assessors. D. Petzel volunteered to provide lodging and food. The Committee is also creating a website with the help of Catherine Demchur-Merry with a "donate" icon on the bottom of the page for those who would like to contribute to a restoration fund. J. Anderson will consult with the Town's attorney regarding how this might work and report back to the Board.

The lighthouse museum will be open on Saturdays and Sundays in July and August from 9:30-4:30 (closed for lunch). However, visitors will not be allowed in the tower. (Please related article by Dave Petzel on Page 1).

Islesboro Looking Ahead

This document, prepared by the Select Board and adopted in 2012 is intended to be used as a "general plan for the Town as well as a catalyst for discussion of Islesboro's future by Town committees, private organizations, businesses, and individuals". It has been revised and approved by the Board in the years since and Chair G. Pendleton reviewed and modified the document again this year to reflect current concerns. The Board approved. *Islesboro Looking Ahead* is available for viewing in the Town Office and on the Town's website.

Meeting Days

The Board briefly discussed the existing scheduling conflict – both the School Committee and the Select Board now meet on Thursdays at 5:30. The School Committee switched from Tuesdays to Thursdays so the Superintendent could catch the regularly-scheduled water taxi run. The Select Board switched from Wednesdays because of a scheduling conflict for one member. The discussion will continue at the March 31st meeting, after this issue goes to print so the meeting dates below might not be accurate. Check before you attend.

Municipal Building Project Update

The renamed Health & Safety Building Committee, now the Municipal Building Project Committee, met with architect Stephen Blatt who was one of the architects for the successful school renovation, as well as a consultant for the Town Centers initiative. Blatt has extensive experience in commercial construction and, more specifically, health center construction. The Committee recommended that the Select Board approve a contract with Blatt Architects.

VIKING
LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLIES
Belfast Blue Hill Hancock Holden
Machias Milbridge Lincolnville Vinalhaven Warren
Lincolnville 800-660-3605
www.vikinglumber.com

Macleod's the Home Store
187 High Street • Belfast, Maine
Sales & Service
Scott Macleod Manager (207) 338-1240
info@macleodfurniturestore.com Fax (207) 338-6220