

Islesboro Select Board
Committee Chair Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room
Thursday, February 15, 2024 @ 4:30 PM

Members Present:

They Conover, Melissa Burns, Ken Smith, Cindy Gorham, Mike Nelson, John Rex-Waller, Craig Olson, Linda Gilles, Laura Read, Myra Sinnott, Colleen Dove, Christine Robb, Lauren Janney

Call to Order: Select Boar Chair They Conover called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

They welcomed everyone and gave a brief background on the intention of the meeting. Former Select Board Member Arch Gilles started holding roundtable discussions with committee chairs several years ago, but these meetings haven't happened since before the pandemic. The Select Board thought it would be a good time to restart this tradition. Budget season is coming up, and it will be good to have an overview of what the committees are working on and planning. The Select Board is also planning to develop a Committee Guidance Document with a Code of Conduct, for the benefit of all committees.

Cemetery Committee – Cindy Gorham, Chair

The Committee takes care of Bayview & Sprague, the two Town-owned cemeteries. Other cemeteries are on private lands. Recent projects: tree work, cleanup and removal of downed trees, and fence work. Gravestone maintenance at Bayview. There's a 100-year-old oak tree at Bayview; we recently had some work done on that for about \$3,000. Carole Nichter, former Chair, is leaving, and we've been keeping equipment at her house. We are now getting a storage shed for equipment. That could cross over into next year's budget. We are obligated to properly maintain veteran sites. Some of those are in the 30 private burial grounds spread over the island. Maine law states we need to keep those clean (remove blowdowns, dirt on stones). We hire professionals to remove trees; it gets expensive. Mowing accident at Bay View: \$500 to repair stone. We're down a couple members, and need support from Town Office staff for selling lots. A new section at Bayview has been plotted off. Private burial grounds are on many properties. We had a close call with one property where the septic system might have been too close. The CEO needs to be aware of where these are before issuing permits.

ALP Library Trustees – Laura Read, Interim Chair

Laura just finished 9 months serving as the Interim Chair. The new Chair is Brooke Hua, who has an extensive background in library systems. We just finished 18 months of going over the Employee & Trustee Handbook, all the policies and procedures. The Select Board approved it recently. It was outdated, and the plan is to read it annually so we don't get 10-20 years behind again. We recently started a long-term project to become certified as a sustainable library. There's a long list of points that need to be accomplished. The only other library in Maine that has achieved certification is the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. The Board is fresh—it's a new, young board with a lot of energy.

D.H.W.W.T.F. Committee – Craig Olson, Chair

Officially in the Ordinance, this is the Pollution Control Committee. We have the smallest municipal sewer system in the state. There are 34 people on the system, built in 1904. We recently did a large survey, completed last year. It had never been surveyed or mapped before. We didn't know where many pipes were. We have now mapped the system and came up with a

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plan for long-term maintenance and repair of the system, which has been failing in certain areas for years. The price tag for that is over \$3M for the entire system. The engineering firm, Oliver Associates, is still engaged with us in looking for funding sources and applying for funds. We want to protect the single-source aquifer. We are going forward in the next year with replacing meters on wells, most of which were purchased used over 20 years ago.

Energy Committee – Myra Sinnott, Chair

We have 9 members who are all busy with projects. Our purpose is to support efficient energy use in all the municipal buildings. Among many projects, we recently installed a heat pump in the meeting room, and insulation in the library. We are supporting the library in their sustainable library effort. We're trying to finish the heat pumps in the municipal building so we can get a rebate from Efficiency Maine, and we're working with the Municipal Building Project on the new buildings. We're getting some fire suppression equipment for the EV charger. Planning lighting updates in library, along with an electrical upgrade and heat pump. For the Energy Prize, Kizzi Barton is working with us doing home assessments and home energy plans. We're looking to do an island-wide solar & storage setup. The goal is to apply for a \$200,000 prize in July, to take us to the next level, to help us qualify for other grants. We're updating the fire station, and working with ICC.

Harbor Committee – Ken Smith, Chair

We've been dealing with aquaculture farms: yearly LPAs and longer-term leases. Currently Islesboro has 27 approved farms with more applications in the works. Aquafarming is regulated by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), not the Town, a source of conflict in many towns. We are trying to find the best way to address this industry and protect our limited resources. We've been trying to meet needs of fishermen and boaters in maintaining facilities at Grindle Point and Seal Harbor. Thinking about how best to prepare for and respond to climate changes. Bringing data on anchorages up-to-date: owners' info, coordinates & types of moorings, using DMR mapping software. We're also enforcing Town Ordinances regarding facilities.

Health Center Advisory Board – Christine Robb, Chair

In the past year, we've completely updated our basic Rules of Order. Working with the architect and Health Center personnel in designing new building so it will work for providers and patients. It's undergone multiple revisions. Our next project: there was a big upswing in Lyme cases last summer, mostly in visitors and summer people. We're going to try to raise awareness with signage, and do better outreach. We will need money for signs.

Housing Committee – Mike Nelson, Chair

Our focus has been on workforce housing. We're putting together a resource guide for those looking for housing. We're also working with the Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG), who have recently received money to start an investigation on housing through the midcoast. There's a deficit throughout the state. They are putting together a working group, and we will be involved. The Planning Board has been working on LD 2003, which addresses Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). As part of that, we are studying a third Town Center District at Durkee's

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Store. We are also looking at creating a Housing Trust, which might be able to generate building, focused on workforce housing, which is in dire need.

Islesboro Municipal Broadband – John Rex-Waller, Chair

IMB continues to serve the island well. There are 713 subscribers, who seem to be happy with service. Response times on service calls have improved. IMB meets quarterly. As Roger Heinen is no longer a resident, he had to step off the committee. We need to find a replacement for Roger, and that's in the works. Our contract with GWI has expired, and we are in the process of renegotiating a contract. We had the option of putting out an RFI for a new provider, but decided to work with GWI first. There have been some billing and service issues. Our deadline is the Town Meeting. For the budget cycle, not much changes, but we'd like to make the billing simpler for the Town Office. The current contract is 5 years, we'd like to extend it to 7-10 years.

Municipal Building Project Committee – Linda Gilles, Member

It looks as if construction will start the first week of April. There have been lots of refinements.

Lighthouse Museum Committee – Ken Smith, Chair

Ken gave a detailed report to the Select Board last night. They have done a tremendous amount of work with repairs, and have many projects for maintenance and repairs. We didn't lose anything in the storms. We stabilized the foundations, and that made a big difference. We're planning to write applications for grants, we're seeking donations, and restoring the tower and lantern room.

Pesticide Safety on Islesboro Committee – Linda Gilles, Chair

Copies of the Committee's booklet are available for free at the Town Office. The committee also manages a website with info on synthetic pesticides: pesticidesafetyonislesboro.com. We have made inroads. We're aiming at people who use Roundup. The Golf Course is not using synthetic pesticides anymore.

Recreation Committee – Lauren Janney, Chair

The biggest effort is focused on Adventure Camp this summer. We are planning on needing to hire a new roster: camp director, counselor, lead counselor. It's an opportunity to take it to the next level. We're anticipating needing to pay the new roster more. This will be the second year of hosting Adventure Camp through the ICC. This will be the third year for the Swim program, and there are 27 kids currently involved. We have fall and spring sessions at the Waldo County YMCA for pre-K kids, and Spring lessons for K-3 kids. They offer a bus from Lincolnville at no charge. The YMCA has some staffing challenges. We're trying to make it more sustainable. We may do lessons at Big Tree Beach in the summer. We are looking for a new Recreation Director; Rob McHugh is stepping down at the end of June. We are also looking for other new members. Maddie Dodge Field court area needs to be resurfaced, and other facilities need maintenance. She Conover suggested the Town make a donation to the YMCA as a thank-you.

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School Board – Colleen Dove, Member

Our focus has been on the Superintendent search. We've had great candidates, four have interviewed, and we're doing final interviews this week. Hopefully by the end of break we will make a decision. We are planning a budget workshop this Wednesday. We are budgeting for the pointing on the building. The roof has been completed on the main building; the gym roof will need to be done in the near future. 30 years ago, the school was the worse facility in Maine, and it is now one of the best. The playground is halfway done, and the rest is coming this spring. The staircase needs to be done; we're discussing whether to apply for grants or use facilities funds. The floors also need to be redone.

Sea Level Rise Committee – Shey Conover, Chair

The committee is primarily focused on the Narrows because it is Town-owned and one of the most vulnerable areas. We received two different grants, one that allowed us to hire a project manager, and another to help pay for an engineering study. GZA Engineering just started last month. By the end of April, they will have an alternatives analysis for us with three different adaptations to consider. By Town Meeting, we should have an adaptation chosen to move forward with the next level of planning. We are also expanding work to the ferry terminal, which is complex. The road is owned by state, and the parking lot and lighthouse are owned by the Town. We are having conversations with DOT to figure out how to partner and collaborate. Other vulnerable areas on the island; culvert work needs to be done, among other things.

Select Board – Shey Conover, Chair

In response to Ken's question about the availability of a grant-writer, Shey answered that we don't have one. Last year, we put money in the budget to try to hire a grant-writer for the Town, and advertised, but didn't get a lot of interest. There have been people who have volunteered with some committees. In some cases, we've paid them per diem for their services. The Sea Level Rise Committee had a consultant who wrote a grant, which paid for her to write more grants. We found that the project management and financial reporting after the fact may be a challenge. We're looking for someone with broad experience in planning, grant-writing, and project management. The Board is open to collaborating with committees on this.

We enjoy hearing from the committees, and having your work brought to us to support as much as possible. We've been hearing about storm damage and road repair. The East Shore Drive project wiped out the repair fund. For next year's budget, we need to rebuild maintenance and repair funds. East Shore Drive is open. Farley will finish details and reseeding in spring.

Discussion about grant-writing strategies, a possible Town grant-writer, and collaboration amongst committees for grants.

We will try to meet twice a year going forward.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:39