

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, January 29, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

APPROVED
2/12/25

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Shey Conover, Melissa Burns, Peter Anderson

Members Present via Zoom: Vice Chair Lauren Bruce, Stephen Pendleton (5:36)

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Murt Durkee, Andrew Coombs, Janis Petzel

Others Present via Zoom:

Peter Willcox, Genevieve McDonald, Dick De Grasse, Josh Leach, Dan Tutor, Elizabeth Hayden, Maggy Willcox, Doug Welldon, Sally, iPhone98.

Call to Order: Chair Shey Conover called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM, and a quorum was established.

Minutes of January 15, 2025, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve the minutes of January 15, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

S. Conover stated that Janis Petzel helped to draft letter of support from the Select Board for the Energy Committee and the Islesboro Community Center (ICC). The two organizations are collaborating to apply for an Island Institute Fellow position.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by M. Burns, to approve and sign the letter, as written. Discussion as below. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

Janis Petzel explained that the Energy Committee came to the Select Board and got permission to pursue this application. The ICC intends to focus on communications with the school and with the youth of the island, and the Energy Committee will be analyzing the interventions we've already done to see if they are helping, and start working toward increasing energy efficiency in our homes. The fellow will be helping with this.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

Peter Willcox reported on the Ferry Service Advisory Board meeting held January 23rd. New officers: Dennis Damon is the Chair, Jon Emerson is now the Vice Chair, and Bill Geary, as before, is the Secretary. The Margaret Chase Smith is expected to be back in service here around mid-March. Commissioner Bruce Van Note said that boats are

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replaced when money becomes available, not on a schedule of when they are needed. He also asked what we would accept as a minimum service, 100% or 95%. The reason he is asking this is unclear to Peter, and he has a few questions about it. For instance, does he expect to set a goal and then to ask us to pay for it? Eva Murray wanted a few more trips to Matinicus for construction projects, and that doesn't seem it will be a problem. Peter Drury, a retired captain from Vinalhaven, asked why there are no captains considered for relief positions. This is a good question, and it was not answered by anybody on the ferry service. Seaward, the company that was contracted to fill crew positions, has been contracted for another five years at no cost, only as is needed. There's been an extra Ordinary on the Islesboro run since fall. The MSFS is proud of this, although Peter is unsure why they feel a need to keep an extra person on duty.

Peter reported on the multi-island Emergency Ferry Task Force meeting of January 28th. Janet was also in attendance. Ann Matlack will present a bill requiring the ferries to sleep on the islands. Genevieve will give us an update. There are 8 to 15 legislative bills in markup now being discussed that have to do with the ferries. There was some debate at this meeting on whether the Task Force would be willing to hire Genevieve McDonald, and debate about whether Islesboro would be willing to share her. The general feeling was that the islands were not ready to jump on board with her. They would like the information she provided, but they didn't want to spend the money. Peter described John King's plan to create resident and non-resident rate for tickets. In the meeting, it was suggested that this was not legal because federal money was used to build the ferries. (At the FSAB meeting on January 23rd, Bruce Van Note said we can sell tickets for whatever we want, as long as we buy them first.) Jason Joyce from one of the islands suggested the lobbyist could help us with a 60% to 40% expense share. This is one of the bills being proposed.

S. Pendleton asked Peter to review the comment on what the islands did or did not want to participate in, with regards to the lobbyist efforts. Peter clarified that the multi-island Emergency Task Force seemed reluctant to spend the money to hire Genevieve. However, they were not opposed to Genevieve or the information she would generate. S. Conover added that she will have a follow-up conversation with Genevieve tomorrow to flesh some of this out. One of the things we talked about at our last meeting was wanting to be clear that it was a contract we were signing with Genevieve, so that we could be clear about setting our goals, recognizing that it will be a complementary effort with other islands. We need some greater clarity around communication and the information that Genevieve gets to us, and when she's comfortable sharing it with a broader audience, and how that gets shared in the wider world. Genevieve has been generous with her time and expertise. From the conversations that Shey has had with several island communities, everyone is excited that Islesboro is taking the initiative to work with Genevieve. It will be beneficial for us to pause and figure out Islesboro's strategy and how that fits within the larger strategy. If we can come up with a strategy that we can present to a broader group, that places us in a stronger position, and it will be easier to have thoughtful conversations and collaborate with the other communities. In our packet is a summary of the different titles that have been proposed.

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ISLESBORO EMERGENCY FERRY TASK FORCE UPDATE

Genevieve McDonald stated there are 11 bills with the word ferry in them. Not all of them are applicable to Islesboro. Some are applicable to Matinicus, one is applicable to Monhegan. All we have are bill titles right now, and they are very general. All of the unbridged island lawmakers have been generous with their information and their time in providing updates. There are a number of conversations that need to take place. All of the bills are being drafted. They haven't been printed yet. The lawmakers themselves have not received back their first drafts. We are in the initial stage of entering into this process, which is good because we are at the ground floor. There are also 3 to 4 bills that are specific to emergency medical services, one of which is "An act to study the delivery of emergency medical services and ferry service impact on island communities." This is from Senator Chip Curry. There are a number of other bills regarding EMS where we may want to have people know that we exist, to make sure they're not just talking about remote communities in the woods, but also the unbridged island communities.

S. Conover stated that the Islesboro EFTF has scheduled a strategy workshop on February 5th, and a regular meeting on February 19th.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that the SLR Committee met last week with representatives from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and the Maine Geological Survey. They toured the Narrows. Their goal was to understand exactly what kind of project we have, and get an idea for what they think will be permissible. They will follow up with recommendations to inform our next set of engineering designs.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

L. Bruce stated that President Trump had cancelled Federal funding, but the order has been rescinded. The funding is available, but we've been warned to expect possible delays. We have a congressional grant through Senators King's and Collins' offices for \$846,000 to supply the Health Center.

UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE UPDATE

S. Pendleton stated that he and L. Bruce need to get together to discuss the numbers that Mark is bringing to us. S. Pendleton will have a comprehensive report on that at the next meeting. We have received bids from electrical contractors.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: February 10th, 5:00pm.
- Energy Committee: February 11th, 5:15pm
- Lighthouse Committee: January 30th.

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P. Anderson reported that the Harbor Committee is finding that we have projects coming up that are going to be 5-digit projects. The committee has been discussing the possibility of implementing mooring permit fees in the municipal harbors, probably around \$50/mooring, to help offset some of the projects. They are also thinking about the possibility of having one of the boatyards administrate the process of collecting and keeping track of the mooring fees. P. Anderson is in support of implementing mooring fees. We recognize that there will be some pushback, but it's important that we either have the fees for the people who utilize the municipal piers in order to keep them in good shape and safe, or we're going to have to go to the taxpayers and ask for \$10K or \$15K per year for the next three years. We are one of a few harbors that does not currently have mooring fees. It would involve amending our Ordinance. The Harbor Master has requested copies of invoices for repairs.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 1/29/25 and Minutes of 1/15/25 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
 - 10/17/24 Minutes of Harbor Committee
 - 12/10/24 Minutes of Energy Committee
 - 12/19/24 Minutes of Housing Committee
 - 1/8/25 Minutes of Emergency Ferry Task Force
- Correspondence
 - 1/27/25 email from Janis Petzel regarding letter of support for the Energy Committee's request for an Island Fellow.
 - 1/27/25 email from Genevieve McDonald with a preliminary tracking report for a legislative bill regarding the ferry that may be of interest to Islesboro.
- Manager
 - 60 overdue IMB accounts totaling \$24,000.
 - Tina will send out notices.
 - We've discussed disconnection at the end of February
 - FY26 March budget schedule.
 - 2025 Model ferry rates, 15% increase across the board.
 - M. Burns asked about the meeting with the superintendent. J. Anderson replied that she has a date set in February, and she will follow up.
- Warrant FY25 #16

CORRESPONDENCE

Addressed in Town Manager report.

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OLD BUSINESS

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Open bids for FY25 Summer Gravel.
 - JPA: \$26.50/yard
 - P. Coombs: \$30.00/yard

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to award the Summer Gravel contract to JPA. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

2. Discuss date for Annual Town Meeting.
 - J. Anderson tentatively booked the Kinnicut Center for 5/3 and 5/10.
 - Discussion about dates. We may want to allow time for any Ordinance change proposals.
 - The Board chose 5/17. J. Anderson will send an email to confirm with the school.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #16

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY25 #16. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

Board of Appeals: Ben Dove.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to appoint Ben Dove to the Board of Appeals. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce: No comments.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

S. Pendleton: No comments.

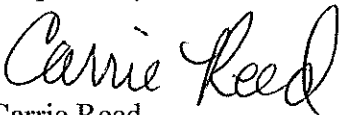
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M. Burns: Happy Snow Day!

P. Anderson: No comments.

Motion by M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to adjourn meeting at 6:16 PM. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary