

Islesboro Select Board  
Regular Meeting  
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom  
Wednesday, November 5, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

☒ APPROVED

11/19/25

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Chair Shey Conover, Vice Chair Peter Anderson, Melissa Burns, Peter Rothschild, Stephen Pendleton (Zoom)(6:05)

**Others Present:**

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Janis Petzel, Daniel Frohling, Harriet Bering

**Others Present via Zoom:**

Lauren Bruce, Daniel Tutor, Donna Leone, Fred Porter, Josh Leach, Amy Mulnix

Call to Order: Chair Shey Conover called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, and a quorum was established.

**Minutes of October 22, 2025, Regular Meeting.**

**MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the minutes of October 22, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.**

**VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS**

Harriet Bering and Janis Petzel spoke on behalf of the Energy Committee. Islesboro has been accepted into the Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project (ETIPP) Technical Assistance Program. About five years ago, we participated in the first cohort, which provided a strategic overview of the energy needs of the island. They made a number of recommendations in making the town more energy efficient, and we've done a fair amount of work on that. They also recommended local generation combined with storage to create microgrids, which would improve resilience in the face of blackouts and the limited capacity of the cable we have. We applied for a couple of grants to try to move forward on that, but weren't successful. This program is not exactly a grant; it's a technical assistance program. We've been accepted into the deep-dive track, which means they will provide engineers to help us develop a more detailed plan for putting together a resilient energy system. It includes \$50,000 to be paid out at certain milestones. The Island Institute is partnering with us, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is leading this. They will be setting up an in-person kickoff meeting, probably the first week of December. We're not supposed to make any public announcements until after the government shutdown is over. Once we have the go-ahead, we will provide all the information and put something together for the newspaper. Having this in the meeting minutes is okay.

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Janis added that she wanted to give Holly Fields credit because she was the chair of the committee when we participated in the first ETIPP program, and she's been very involved in this round. Islesboro was also chosen as a site visit for the regional ETIPP meeting, which took place last week. There were representatives from about 25 communities, and they were very impressed with the island. Islesboro is getting a good reputation for being in the front of doing things. Thank you all for your support.

S. Conover congratulated the Energy Committee.

P. Rothschild asked what the Energy Committee is doing about researching the feasibility of windmills on Islesboro. Harriet answered that this is something that has been discussed and it may be explored with this project. Her understanding is that, per kilowatt hour, windmills are significantly more expensive than solar, but that technology is changing. Janis added that, as part of this ETIPP process, the engineers will help us determine if there are other renewable energies that would make sense here. Wind power isn't off the table. We will look at that and other things, like tidal power.

M. Burns suggested an earlier Select Board meeting start time for winter months.

**MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by M. Burns, to move the Select Board Meeting Start Time to 5:30pm. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.**

**FERRY SERVICE UPDATE**

Peter Willcox was not present. No update.

**SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE**

S. Conover reported that the committee has a meeting next week on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT: UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE, & PUBLIC SAFETY RENOVATION UPDATE**

Up-Island Public Safety Garage: S. Pendleton stated he had no update.

Public Safety Renovation: S. Pendleton shared photos of the completed work on Phase 1 of the renovation. Fred Porter explained the photos of the offices, reception, and evidence storage room.

Fred stated that all the hard work on the renovations has paid off. It wasn't a moment too soon. We really needed to do something to get the facilities upgraded, or Fred was going to make a recommendation to the Select Board that we close the Police Department, because we didn't have the proper facilities to store everything. If anyone would like to come in and see the space, feel free to come in and ring the doorbell at the counter. Once we are out of the old office, that will be a great place for the firefighters and EMTs to do their run reports. We will also set that room up to be the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) so we can be ready for storms. Everything is looking good, and we're very

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appreciative of the effort the Town put into this. Lauren has been there from the start and has done so much.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Energy Committee: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:15pm.
- Town Office closed Tuesday, November 11 for Veteran's Day.
- Sea Level Rise Committee: November 13<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm.
- Planning Board: November 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm.
- Grindle Point Parking: November 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am.

### TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 11/5/25 and Minutes of 10/22/25 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Minutes of 7/17/25 Harbor Committee meeting.
- Minutes of 10/30/25 Lighthouse Committee meeting.
- Correspondence
- Handouts:
  - Bar Harbor/Capital Reserve Sub-accounting statement for 10/31/25.
  - 2025-26 Winter Ferry Schedule
  - Maine Community Foundation/Health Center Endowment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter balance \$1,769,877.
  - Waldo County Food Pantry Fall/Winter 2025-26 Schedule
  - 11/4/25 State Referendum Results.
- Manager:
  - 10/22 Camera installed in front desk area of Town Office
  - Day off after Christmas: The Town Office will be closed and employees may use personal time.
- Warrant #10

### CORRESPONDENCE

S. Conover stated she had a conversation with Daniel Frohling, and sent an email to Steve. For a future meeting, she would like have a formal agenda item to discuss the idea of how we can develop a plan across housing and other town priorities, and how we can use the Islesboro Looking Ahead document to create an action plan for that work. It will take coordination with town committees and leadership from the school.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Grindle Point Parking Ordinance—next steps/determine fees.
  - S. Conover stated it was nice to have had a good turnout at the public hearing. There was good feedback earlier this week. She Conover, Janet Anderson, Tina Pendleton, Dave Dyer, Fred Porter, and Peter Rothschild met to try to

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draft some information about a fee schedule for discussion. We thought it would be helpful to have a meeting with the Grindle Point Parking Committee, as there are some changes that would impact the existing parking. We're recommending going to one fee schedule for both areas. A joint meeting with them is scheduled for Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>.

- P. Rothschild stated that the goal is to increase the amount of parking available and to administer that in an organized way in which some amount of revenue would at least diminish the amount of effort and resources we are devoting to administer this. Another goal is to tame the Wild West that parking is currently on Ferry Road.
- The Public Hearing held on October 29<sup>th</sup> showed most people are very supportive. No one expressed objections to us negotiating a new plan for parking along Ferry Road. There were questions and discussion about Item B in the draft Ordinance, which regards the fees.
- P. Rothschild presented a proposal for a fee schedule that is simpler than the current one for Grindle Point Parking.
- P. Rothschild stated that we need to verify the layout of the parking along Ferry Road, which involves a little more engineering work. He's asked Janet to solicit some proposal from our engineers as far as expense. We're looking to paint and stripe the parking spots as inexpensively as possible.
- M. Burns asked about short-term parking. What if someone can't get back in time due to an emergency? Is there something in the Ordinance that allows for showing proof, or to have any fees waived? Fred replied that folks can call the Town Office, or bring in the parking ticket and talk to someone.
- P. Anderson asked about resident vs. non-resident fees. S. Conover replied that this is to be discussed with the Parking Committee. This recommendation does do away with those different tiers. We would sell two different passes; an overnight pass for the 24-hour area in the center for \$20, and a longer-term pass for the Ferry Road area for \$300. The passes would be used May 1 – October 30.
- P. Rothschild stated he thinks we should look into a long-term resident parking situation. Changing the pattern and also the pricing structure is a lot, and the fees seem to have a big jump.
- S. Conover explained that the group is recommending simplifying the current structure. There's one 24-hour parking pass with four different fee structures: resident, non-resident, on-island commercial, and off-island commercial. Janet added that island businesses can only buy two commercial passes, at \$75 and \$150, and off-island businesses can only buy one, at \$300.
- P. Anderson stated that he's worried about the increase in price to someone who has paid the current price for many years.
- S. Conover stated that currently, people who aren't buying a pass are parking where we are now trying to regulate it. It's no longer going to be free. But a

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resident who is buying our usual parking pass is not going to see a big increase in price.

- S. Conover stated the group will report back after meeting with the Grindle Point Parking Committee. Once we have the map nailed down, it feels like it would be an appropriate time for the Board to vote on the Ordinance.
- S. Pendleton stated that we have such a hard time getting painters and plumbers, etc. He's concerned the new pricing may potentially deter small business tradespeople. We don't want to drive away the business community that we need here.
- S. Conover stated we have a very limited resource with parking. People could purchase a short-term parking pass for \$20 if they want to go off-island for a night and move their car the next day. If they want to leave it over a weekend, they would purchase a long-term parking pass.
- P. Rothschild added that there are relatively few people who would fall into the category of needing parking between 24 hours and the entire 3-month season.
- S. Conover stated that change is not easy. There will be some growing and learning pains as we figure out how quickly we max out the short-term parking and how that demand works.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. None.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. None.

**APPROVE WARRANT: FY26 #10**

**MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to approve Warrant FY26 #10. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

None.

**CHAIR COMMENTS**

S. Conover: Tomorrow night is the Junior Class Dinner fundraiser at the school.

**VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS**

P. Anderson: No comments.

**INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

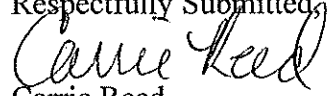
P. Rothschild: No comments.

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S. Pendleton: No comments.

M. Burns: Islesboro EMS will be hosting a Food Drive Friday, 8-1, outside of the Island Market and Durkee's Store. The food will be going to the Second Baptist Church Food Pantry. We might do it on another Friday in November also. If you want to make a cash or check donation, please contact Pastor Trish Goodspeed.

**Motion by M. Burns, seconded by S. Conover, to adjourn meeting at 6:36 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Carrie Reed  
Secretary