

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Shey Conover, Vice Chair Lauren Bruce, Melissa Burns, and Peter Anderson

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Bill Thomas, Terry Sanderson, Rachel Rolerson-Smith, Ken Smith, Paul (Babe) Hatch

Via Zoom: Fred Porter, Maggy Willcox, Jim Mitchell

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

MOTION BY L. Bruce, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve the minutes of January 31, 2024 Regular Meeting, as written. Discussion about adding the notes from Executive Session. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS.

Babe Hatch addressed the Board and presented a repair bill for his damaged mirror. He stated his mirror on his plow truck broke when Mark was sanding Cemetery Road. With the wing up, it hit a tree that had been cut flush with the road instead of back a few feet, and the wing hit the mirror. He asked why workers cut the trees flush with the driving lane, and why they push brush into the ditches. It's hard to get back onto the road to take care of it properly.

East Shore Drive: Loranus Cove needs to be addressed. J. Anderson said she's already spoken with Bill Lane about it. Babe stated that Charlotte's Cove is also washed out.

Babe asked about Lucas Tree Service and why they don't snip leaning trees when they're out here. He said he also asked the Town crew if they can take care of leaning trees, and they said it's not their job. J. Anderson replied that Lucas is only here for CMP. She has spoken with several homeowners about their leaning trees. Trees on private property are homeowners' responsibility.

Babe asked about the Narrows. Once the frost comes out, it's going to start to rut. He asked if we're going to pave this year. J. Anderson stated that we will pave if we have money in the budget, after July 1st. Babe believes we need to spend money on our roads, and put other projects (such as the Municipal Building Project) on hold. If there's a fire station up-island, he would like a salt & sand shed down-island.

S. Conover replied that the Board has talked for the past couple months about identifying the places that need attention, and developing a road maintenance plan. Ditching and other projects will save us money long-term. The recent storms have highlighted the

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need for additional money to put aside for repairs. We should build up the funds so that we don't use the paving fund in order to take care of emergencies that arise. The point is well taken. We will be entering the budgeting process next month, and we will think hard about what we need to set aside so that we're prepared. We are aiming to be as fiscally responsible as possible.

L. Bruce stated she appreciated Babe bringing concerns to the Board. We recognize that we need to do long-term planning. Hearing from someone who helps the Town with the roads really brings it home.

Babe stressed that the beaches need to be taken care of before they get worse, and before we need a permit. He expressed frustration about the lack of action on the roads in recent years.

Bill Thomas suggested organizing a volunteer crew with homeowners for overhanging trees.

S. Conover suggested partnering with Lucas when they come out for CMP, and maybe a homeowner education campaign.

P. Anderson stated that this is the second time in a couple months that someone has brought the issue of downed trees encroaching onto the roadway. Can we mobilize Jordy and Don more? J. Anderson stated that the Public Works folks should speak to that. Other things come up. S. Conover requested that the feedback from the community gets passed on to the crew, and that it's a priority. Understanding how it fits within the list of other things is helpful for us in order to be able to respond to concerns.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by L. Bruce, to take the agenda out of order. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lighthouse Museum Committee.

- Ken Smith reported on what the Lighthouse Museum Committee has been working on, to make sure they are on the same wavelength with the Select Board.
- We just wrote a grant for fixing the lantern room. We are then going to work on another grant to fix inside the tower. It's a grant through the King Foundation. Last year we were told that because we didn't have a local response with donations, they didn't want to be the lead source. We will resubmit this year. We want to continue to get grants, and we're working with other lighthouse organizations to help with some of the grants.
- Not everything can be done with grants. The foundations of the boathouse and the north wall of the Keeper's House recently got fixed up. We were lucky to have someone to make that large donation.

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- We want to increase the amount of donations. By doing that, we want to increase the amount of time the museum is open, to 5 days/week.
- We're getting a lot of hits on our website. If we can increase participation, we can double the amount of time someone is there to greet visitors.
- We're looking at getting a webcam for upstairs in the lighthouse. We have a couple organizations working with us, trying to do it for as little money as possible.
- Most of what we want to do requires the Lighthouse Committee to step up, but we need to have the Select Board support.
- The Town paid for the CAP Report that looked at the collection, which is about 300 items. The building and collection were assessed. They had a series of recommendations, one of which was to raise the building up. The cost would be prohibitive. We are very involved in taking care of the collection.
- Sea Level Rise: everyone is concerned. The two January storms were significant for the Lighthouse. The surge is what did the damage during the January 10th storm.
- We would like to continue with restorations as best we can, and at the same time, maintain the lighthouse. We want to put heavy-duty shutters on the outside of the windows to protect them and the collection.
- L. Bruce stated this is a great example of forward thinking. She asked about how the shutters will work. Bill Thomas answered that they will protect the lower windows from water-driven damage, the upper windows would be protected from wind-blown objects. During the recent storm, one of the windows broke, which allowed a surge of water to come in, bringing in a lot of mud. Had that window been protected by a shutter, it wouldn't have broken.
- The long-term goal is for visitors to go to the museum, down the tunnel, up through the tower, and into the lantern room.
- Bill is working on restoring some of the windows. Any protection we can afford them from wind or water damage, gives us more time before we need to replace them.
- We are working with historian Jim Leslie to restore the lantern room and tower. He is presently doing Vinalhaven's Browns Head Light, and then Eagle Island. We will meet with us next week to see when he can fit us in. We could possibly allow people into the tower and lantern room next year.
- J. Anderson asked about lead paint in the tower. Rachel answered that the first report said there's lead on the stairs. Bill stated that they will resolve it.
- S. Conover stated it seems like the committee has been re-energized in the past couple of years. Thanks for all the hard work and efforts to get grants.
- Terry Sanderson and other members have been doing a lot of publicity. One part of the grant involves the school. We will work with students in history and science concepts. The principal is very supportive.

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FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that she spoke with John King last week. He met with Bill Pulver on a variety of ferry related items. John remains vigilant and focused on making sure there's good communication with DOT, and helping to facilitate the need to begin conversations with the town regarding Sea Level Rise on Ferry Road.

SEA LEVEL RISE

S. Conover reported that the Committee will meet next Wednesday the 21st. We are waiting for information to come back from GZA Engineering for the Narrows.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT

L. Bruce reported that we should be getting the Guaranteed Maximum Price around March 6th. If it comes in at or under the estimate, we're good to go. If not, the MBPC will make a recommendation to the Select Board. If we have to do a Warrant, we will come back to the Town to approve it, and that will be likely at the April 10th Town Informational Meeting, which would then be a Special Town Meeting for a vote.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Town Committee Chairs meeting: February 15th
- Sea Level Rise Committee: February 21st,
- Planning Board: February 26th, 5:00pm.
- IESC: February 27th, 5:00 pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 2/14/24 and Minutes of 1/31/24 Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes/Correspondence:
 - Minutes of 1/18/24 Harbor Committee meeting
 - Minutes of 1/25/24 Lighthouse Museum Committee meeting
 - 2/7/24 letter from Sally Daggett of Jensen Baird regarding resignation as Town Attorney as of 6/30/24. Mark Bower will continue as counsel for the Broadband. We will need to advertise. Do we need a workshop to go over RFPs? S. Conover stated it would be helpful to have a summary of what we contact the firm for regularly.
 - Bar Harbor Wealth Management Capital Reserves period ending 1/31/24.
 - 2/7/24 letter to Town Committee Chairs inviting to meeting 2/15/24.
 - 2/9/24 email from Mark McCue, DOT Highway Program, regarding Light Capital Paving Project for Ferry Road, Mill Creek Road, and West Bay Road.
 - Copy of Notice of Presidential Primary Election March 5th, 2024. Town Office will be closed this day.

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- Notice of 2/15/24 Select Board Workshop: Committee Chairs
- Warrant #17
- Manager Report
 - J. Anderson reported that as of 2/12/24, East Shore Drive has been reopened. Farley & Sons will be back in the spring to loam and seed disturbed lawn areas and replace Lars Nelson's culvert.
 - J. Anderson has sent thank-you notes to the Boardman Family and the Maple Grove Cemetery Committee for use of their private roads during East Shore Drive stabilization.
 - We will need to grade and fill some areas.
 - 2/12/24 Dirt Roads were posted.
 - Revised Budget Calendar: March 13th cancelled due to Shey, Lauren, and Janet being away. Push out to April 3rd.
 - Discussion about signing a Warrant with only two members present. Janet will ask the attorney.
 - Superintendent Dominic DePatsy reached out to meet with Janet to go over the Superintendent's budget. She recommended the School Board meet with the Select Board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Discussed in Town Manager's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. None.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANTS: FY24 #17

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by L. Bruce, to approve Warrant FY24 #17. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

APPOINTMENTS:

None.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

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L. Bruce: No comments.

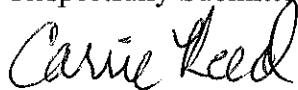
INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

P. Anderson: No comments.

M. Burns: Go Eagles! Boys have playoffs, Saturday at 1:00, Girls Monday the 19th at 10:30. Logan Burns is the sole rep for State Indoor Track & Field. He runs and jumps on the 19th.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by M. Burns, to Adjourn Meeting at 7:03 PM. No Discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary