

APPROVED
5/24/23

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Gabe Pendleton, Vice Chair Shey Conover, and Lauren Bruce

Absent:

Phil Seymour and Melissa Burns

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Donna Seymour, and John King

Via Zoom: Philo Hutcheson, Jennifer West, Peter Willcox, and Maggy Willcox

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

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by L. Bruce, to approve the minutes of April 26, 2023 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by L. Bruce, to take the agenda out of order. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Input on Naming the Next Maine State Ferry Service Boat
 - G. Pendleton referred to the spreadsheet provided by J. Anderson with votes for various potential names for the next ferry.
 - There is no clear-cut path or precedent for how the Select Board should proceed. There is also no guarantee that the Ferry Service will take the recommendation from the Town.
 - John King gave some background on the naming of ferries. The statute provides that the Advisory Board can recommend to the Commissioner of the DOT the naming of the new vessel. Generally, the Advisory Board defers to the island recipient of the new vessel. DOT and the Maine State Ferry Service is somewhat anxious to get a name because its in the design concept stage and it's easier to refer to a boat with a name. It's not necessary, however.
 - DOT isn't keen to name a boat after a current employee of the Ferry Service, but otherwise, it's open.

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- George Mitchell's name was mentioned originally by Mark Higgins many months ago. It was his recollection that Mitchell was in the Senate at the time the current fleet was being built, and likely had a lot to do with getting those boats funded. A couple other people also suggested that name.
- John King is not advocating for any name in particular, but seeking input.
- L. Bruce suggested "Frances Perkins."
- G. Pendleton added that he's read some of the comments submitted in the survey against naming the boat after George Mitchell. Gabe personally likes "Frances Perkins," though it's not on the list, but would also support a name that's not after a politician.
- Discussion about options. Jennifer West suggested a box at Town Meeting.
- G. Pendleton thought that the Select Board voting for a name that's not on the list wouldn't be a good idea. He would be in favor of a box at Town Meeting, but not having it be a part of the Town Meeting process. Let people write a name and put it in the box. To keep the vote clean, the current list of votes should not count. It can serve as a suggestion list.
- John King will go to the Advisory Board with the results.

MOTION BY L. Bruce, seconded by S. Conover, to go back in order of the agenda. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

John King stated that there is an Advisory Board meeting this coming Thursday. They have hired Bill Geary to replace Mark Higgins. Bill is an MMA grad and was in the Navy for a while. Then went into retail management, so has a background in customer relations. His starting date is Saturday the 20th. John will try to meet him soon. The new boat is in the concept stage, and there are some rough drawings. It will be double-ended, hybrid electric. Assuming we'll have the infrastructure, the boat will run all electric, with a generator back-up in case of long power outages, or potential long trips for maintenance and repairs. It will have an open deck configuration, with seating on the deck level and the level above. There is room for improvement on some features.

SEA LEVEL RISE

S. Conover reported that last week some professors from UMaine installed two tide trackers at no expense to the Town, and also took some core samples of the marsh at the Narrows to help us understand the characteristics and age dynamics at play. There's one tide tracker at Grindle Point and one on the east side on a private dock. Once a day the tide tracker will upload data to a website. Next meeting is tomorrow at 5:30. She will get the tide tracker website info from Liv. Shri Verrill will update the group with some of the data collection she's been doing. Lauren is chairing the subcommittee for communication and helping to plan with Liv, Sue, and Jennifer some events for this summer. Lauren added that she met with Sue and Liv today and they already have a draft for the meeting tomorrow.

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MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT

L. Bruce reported that the committee had a meeting last Wednesday. It was well attended and included Steve Blatt and two others from his office. They went over the Up-Island Public Safety Garage. A culvert was discovered at Meadow Pond Road right where a driveway was planned on the site, so the driveway location had to be changed. It solved some problems and will be less costly. The new plan is to use the entrance that Houle and Berry use. Lauren spoke with Cressica from the Energy Committee, who said we may have to change the orientation of the building 90 degrees so that the entrance is off the road, but that is not a problem; there are other ways to address solar panels. The group is closing in on choosing a construction manager. Steve Blatt and his staff are coming out to talk with the Health Center to refine the building design. There is a lot of concern about rising construction costs. Cressica wrote a brilliant grant, which has been approved and moved forward by both Angus King and Susan Collins. This grant will amount to \$845,000 to benefit the Health Center for energy and medical equipment. If approved, we will receive the money in the summer of 2024. Next meeting is May 24th.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: May 22nd – 5pm

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Janet Anderson had no report.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2023 Islesboro Looking Ahead—Review Draft
 - L. Bruce submitted a revised draft to the Board. She added LD 2003 info.

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by G. Pendleton, to approve the Islesboro Looking Ahead document. No Discussion. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Jennifer Hayden, professional grant writer, volunteered to help the Town with grant writing, but not with the actual writing. What we need initially is to understand what activity is already taking place in committees in terms of applying for grants.
 - We need to create a process of coordination with committees. Jenn has offered to meet with the chairs of each committee, and draft a short form for committees to use when looking at grants.

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- We also want to look towards funding a grant-writer position in the Town. There are a lot of opportunities right now for funding, and we don't have a mechanism to take advantage of that.
- There may also be opportunities to have coordination with other communities.

MOTION BY G. Pendleton, seconded by S. Conover, to approve the Jennifer Hayden meeting with the Committee Chairs to gather information. No Discussion. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY23 #23

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by L. Bruce, to approve Warrant FY23 #23. No Discussion. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no.

APPOINTMENTS:

Museum Committee: Ken Smith

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by L. Bruce, to appoint Ken Smith to the Lighthouse/Museum Committee. No Discussion. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no.

CHAIR COMMENTS

None

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

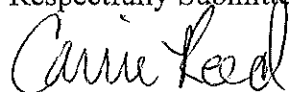
S. Conover stated that she would like to recognize Gabe Pendleton in his last regular Select Board meeting. Thank you for everything you have done for the Town. You have a very calm leadership style that has guided us well.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Lauren Bruce: Thank you so much. You have been a model for how to do leadership effectively, openly, generously, and intelligently.

MOTION BY L. Bruce, seconded by S. Conover, to Adjourn Meeting at 6:44 PM. No Discussion. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary