

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, May 20, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Peter Anderson, Stephen Pendleton, Peter Rothschild, Holly Fields, Dylan Purington
(Zoom)(5:35)

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Julie Reidy, Philippe Selendy, Daniel Frohling, Ted
Pendleton, John King, Peter Willcox, Harriet Bering

Others Present via Zoom:

Elizabeth Hayden, Bob Achorn

Call to Order: Peter Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, and a quorum was
established.

Moment of Silence for those involved in the fire tragedy in Searsmont.

Minutes of May 6, 2026, Regular Meeting.

**MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve the minutes of May 6,
2026 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.**

P. Anderson welcomed Holly Fields and Dylan Purington as new Select Board members.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Philippe Selendy stated that he has noticed an apparent split in perceptions between year-
round and summer residents. Given the importance of the issues that face the island, we
need to come together across these groups. The new Select Board should have this as
one of its top priorities, so instead of being divisive, we pull together to take advantage of
every part of this community.

Ted Pendleton asked for clarification of the problem. Philippe Selendy replied that there
seems to be some criticism or suspicion about different groups on the island, which is
surprising given how small the community is and how essential everyone is. It's the job
of the Select Board to look after everyone, and to look at the interests of the community
as a whole, with a view to the long-term sustainability of this island. There are common
objectives that every member of the community supports.

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Julie Reidy asked the Board to clarify Article 33 from the Town Meeting warrant. There is \$70,000 there for a piece of equipment. It was stated at Town Meeting to be a tractor. J. Anderson replied that it is actually an excavator. Julie asked about why we need this equipment, if the operators will have proper training, insurance for the excavator, licensing needed to transport it, and if there will be a trailer. Training is critical.

S. Pendleton replied. One of the most important items that's been consistently brought up by the community over the past two years is the inability to cut back foliage on the roads, which then ends up scraping larger trucks. The Select Board has prioritized buying a piece of equipment that could allow Town staff to cut back the foliage, without having to hire a contractor. We will train the staff to be able to operate the equipment.

Julie Reidy reiterated her concern about proper training and if an excavator is the right equipment for cutting back roadsides. It would be good if it were really clear what the equipment does and what the training will be.

J. Anderson replied that we will have a trailer with brakes. The purchase won't happen until after July 1st. She will share the make and model information.

S. Pendleton expressed that he would like to make sure we're purchasing equipment that's designed to do the vertical cutting back of higher foliage, and not just as a secondary aspect. J. Anderson replied that the crew will use it for many things.

Ted Pendleton referred to the article with \$15,000 earmarked for affordable housing. He asked how that money is being managed year-to-year. Will we vote on it every year?

Peter Rothchild stated that this is a modest amount to set the precedent that the Town participates in supporting affordable housing. He hopes to continue in coordination with the Housing Committee on how best to utilize resources provided by the public sector. It will be up for discussion in the Town Budget every year.

Ted Pendleton asked if the money will go directly to IAP. P. Rothschild stated it will go to the Housing Committee. P. Anderson added that IAP is not expecting this money.

Dylan Purington stated via Zoom that he understands that he cannot vote at this meeting, as he hasn't been sworn in yet. We are still waiting to hear from counsel.

PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR VICTUALER RENEWALS

The Slate of Victualer Renewals:

- Dark Harbor Shop
- Island Market
- Durkee's General Store
- Sand Castle Grill
- Island Made Treats
- Islesboro Community Center

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- Tarratine Golf & Yacht Clubs

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by S. Pendleton, to enter into Public Hearing for Victualer Renewals. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

- P. Anderson stated that we go through the licensing processes every year for anyone in Town who's selling food. Typically, we approve them as a slate.
- Big Island Grille will not be up for approval today; it will be at our next meeting.
- It appears we are missing water tests and state licenses from the Tarratine venues.
- J. Anderson stated she will check on the Tarratine's documentation. The liquor license will be renewed in September.

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by H. Fields, to exit Public Hearing for Victualer Renewals. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

MOTION BY H. Fields, seconded by P. Rothschild, to approve the slate of Victualer Renewals pending the completion of the Tarratine Club applications. Discussion as below.

- H. Fields asked if we would have to have the information by a certain date.
- J. Anderson stated that the Town licenses expire on May 31st.
- We don't know when Tarratine expects to have all the documentation.
- P. Anderson stated that the other option is to approve the others and push the Tarratine application to the next meeting.

MOTION BY H. Fields, seconded by P. Rothschild, to approve the slate of Victualer Renewals with the exception of the two Tarratine Club applications, with the expectation that they complete their applications in time for the June 3rd meeting. No further discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

Peter Willcox reported that he will attend the Ferry Service Advisory Board meeting tomorrow at 10:30am in Rockland.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

None.

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

Up-Island Public Safety Garage: S. Pendleton reported that the electrician has been in, and Murt seems satisfied with the progress so far. Subcontractors have been working.

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Public Safety Renovation: No update. The renovations look good.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: June 1st, 5:00pm.
- IESC: May 29th, 4:00pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 5/20/26 and Minutes of 5/6/26 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
 - 4/9/26 Housing Committee minutes
 - 4/23/26 Lighthouse Committee minutes
- Handouts:
 - 4/30/26 Bar Harbor Wealth Management sub-accounts.
 - Updated 2026-2027 Financial Summary, with ferry tickets.
- Manager:
 - 5/16 Town Meeting: 144 voters checked in. Meeting ran 9 – 2.
 - 5/19 Letter from Fire Dept. re: “Fill the Boot” drive, 5/23 at Grindle Point, benefiting the “Robbins Lumber Firefighter Relief Fund.”
 - Masons will donate all proceeds from the 5/26 Bean Supper to the Firefighters’ Relief Fund.
 - Town Office will be closed 12-2pm on Thursday, 5/21 so that staff may attend the memorial service for Keith Pendleton.
 - Wed., 5/27, Matt Young of the DEP will be out to test soils around the landfill for PFASTS.
 - J. Anderson will be on vacation June 1 – 9.
- Warrant #24
- S. Pendleton stated that this year, the primary emphasis will be on the school, which ties into affordable housing. He referred to the Housing Survey results that are detailed in the minutes of the 4/9/26 Housing Committee meeting. He stated that people who are concerned about the school and the housing issues on the island should read this information. It was fairly stunning.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ferry Ticket Proposal: John King

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- John King stated the warrant passed at Town Meeting. He presented the board with a draft resident agreement. He foresees preparation of the agreement and preparation of a system to record data for ticket sales.
- Now that the warrant has passed, committee members are willing to continue the work, but need authorization from the Select Board.
- John would like to contact EJ Dupont at the MSFS and Bill Geary at DOT in regard to working out a rational system for bulk purchase of tickets. He is requesting approval from the Select Board to continue the process of implementing the program.
- P. Rothschild stated he just learned that the Town will be going to DOT to procure 1,500 tickets for this program. He thought that the people who expressed an interest would go to the ferry office and buy the tickets. He asked if the \$53,000 the Town approved will buy 1,500 tickets.
- John King explained that the budget for this program only shows the differential between the peak-season and off-season tickets. We have to have some initial money to purchase some of the tickets. Once we start selling them, we have a revenue stream that will allow us to buy more tickets.
- P. Rothschild asked how much capital is needed to launch the program.
- J. King replied that he's talked with Brian Bohanon. It depends on when we launch the program.
- J. Anderson added that the Town will receive an anonymous donation of \$25,000, so we can start the program before July 1st.
- S. Pendleton stated that the money that was voted on is available July 1st. We can't spend money prior to the budget year.
- P. Anderson asked if there will be an additional process if we accept this money and start the program ahead of July 1st. We all voted to start this program July 1st with \$54,000 from the general fund. Is it possible to start earlier? It feels like this invalidates the Select Board and community vote.
- S. Pendleton suggested additional discussion on something being launched prior to the date the Town voted on.
- J. Anderson replied that we are allowed to accept donations for a specific purpose. This is not coming out of taxpayer money.
- H. Fields stated the Town has an account with the MSFS. Tickets are purchased for various things, which are then designated on the receipt when purchasing tickets. If the Town is purchasing tickets to disburse through a donation, she would make a notation on the charge slip. After July 1st, she would notate it is from the program funds.
- J. Anderson stated that she hopes to create a separate account for these tickets, and not put them on the existing Town account, which has 12 – 15 categories.
- P. Anderson stated that his issue is not with the fact that we've got a donation coming in. His concern is that if we start early, what we voted on doesn't

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matter. He would be more inclined to redirect that donation into alleviating the Town's \$54,000 cost.

- J. King stated that these concerns are valid and worthy of discussion. He clarified that he's not trying to rush things to start. Even if we start on July 1st, it would be wise to open a line of communications with MSFS so that we're ready to go.
- P. Rothschild asked about the relationship between the donation and the funds in the budget. Does the donation diminish the budgeted amount? Is it a loan?
- J. Anderson explained that it's an additional amount of money. No one asked for it. It was a result of the discussion at Town Meeting. The donor realized that it couldn't start in June, and wanted to help.
- J. King explained that the projected amount of the program was for four months. If we don't use all the money, it will be returned to the general fund at the end of the year, or it could be rolled over.
- S. Pendleton stated that getting things going and establishing communications is great. He is in favor of that. We can have further discussion on when we can launch the program. The planning & organizing are appropriate.
- P. Anderson agreed. He feels that DOT will want to know a timeline.
- Daniel Frohling stated that we would not be spending Town money before July 1st. If someone donated so that this program could start early, the Town citizenry had nothing to do with that. You can communicate and let people know we're not spending their money early. It seems like it's looking a gift horse in the mouth to not take the money into the program.
- P. Anderson explained how the Select Board wanted to table this idea during budget discussions so that there would be more time to figure it out. A warrant article was created anyway, with the Select Board not recommending the program. The Town voted on it based on the information presented, and now the scope is changing already. It feels like a bad precedent. He stated he would be more supportive of taking the donation to offset the \$54,000, so the impact to the taxpayer is less.
- J. King clarified the events and stated he would like to get the wheels turning.
- J. King suggested checking with the Town's attorney. Donor intent is huge. If you want to use it for reasons other than the reason the donor gave, that might have an impact on whether you get the money at all. His understanding is that the donor was generously suggesting that by virtue of the donation, the program could begin earlier.
- The Board agreed they support John initiating communication with the DOT.
- Julie Reidy stated she does not support the Town subsidizing ferry tickets, due to the impact on taxes. If you have a donation and you're not willing to use that to offset the budget, basically you're saying we now have \$75,000 we need to look at next year, and it will just keep going up.

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- P. Anderson suggested a meeting to discuss the donation and next steps. He requested that this be on the agenda in two weeks.
- J. Anderson suggested that the board members talk with Shey Conover, who was the liaison for this donation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- P. Anderson stated the Board can vote by a show of hands or by ballot. In the past, we've done this with a show of hands and have defaulted to unanimous decisions. The Board agreed to vote by show of hands.

MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by H. Fields, to nominate Peter Rothschild as Chairperson of the Select Board. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by H. Fields, to nominate Peter Anderson as Vice Chairperson of the Select Board. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

2. Determine New Signatures on Disbursement Warrants for Wages

- J. Anderson the payroll is usually disbursed on Tuesdays. It can be signed the night of the Select Board meetings.
- P. Anderson agreed to continue being a signer on the warrant.
- P. Rothschild asked if he will have authority to sign in Pete's absence. J. Anderson stated that she will need to get his information to the bank. Pete is her backup. P. Rothschild could be a backup to the backup.

3. Set Select Board Meeting Time for Summer

- The Board agreed to keep the meeting time at 5:30pm going forward.

D. Purington left the meeting at 6:31pm.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Energy Committee Grant Application Update

- Harriet Bering stated that the Energy Committee would like to apply for a Maine Community Action Grant, which is for climate and resilience projects. The Sea Level Rise Committee has received at least one of these grants.
- The Energy Committee's intent is to use the grant to hire a project manager to move forward with a number of the things they've been working on.
- The application is due June 5th. Harriet will circulate the draft proposal and draft letter of support from the Select Board.
- P. Rothschild asked if there is a Town match requirement. There is not.
- S. Pendleton asked about the role of the project manager.

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- H. Bering replied that the Energy Committee has been working on developing a comprehensive energy plan for Islesboro, and that would be part of the job for this person. The project manager would also help with the next phase. Currently, ETIPP is helping us develop a plan and make recommendations. The next step is to implement some of that.
 - One of the proposals is to start with a demonstration microgrid, probably involving the Post Office Town Center. The project manager would help move this project forward as a paid consultant.
 - P. Anderson asked for a brief description of a microgrid in the Town Center.
 - H. Bering replied that the committee is envisioning making the town more resilient and self-sufficient with local production. Solar looks like the best option at the moment. You can make the whole island a microgrid, but also do smaller sections that are self-sufficient with a group of homes and businesses. One of the jobs of the project manager would be to work on the next round of funding to actually develop the project.
2. S. Pendleton asked J. Anderson about the status of Dylan Purington being on the Board.
- J. Anderson replied that she just learned this afternoon that the attorney said it's okay for Dylan to be on the Board. It has to do with who appoints committee members, and typically in a town where there's a Town Manager, it's the Town Manager that appoints. Janet explained to the attorney that the Select Board here appoint all the committees, so she said in this instance, it works out for Dylan. The attorney will send us a memo.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY26 #24

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by H. Fields, to approve Warrant FY26 #24. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Shellfish Committee: Shamus Dove

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by H. Fields, to appoint Shamus Dove to the Shellfish Committee. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Rothschild: Thank you. I hope your faith is not misplaced.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: No comments.

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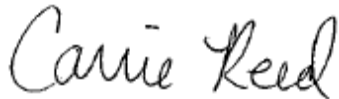
INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

S. Pendleton: I'm excited for the new team. We'll continue to try to represent the Town as effectively as we can, and listen. Any input is always welcome.

Holly Fields: I'm excited to be here. I have a lot to learn, and will listen well.

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by H. Fields to adjourn meeting at 6:39 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary