

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

☒ APPROVED

6/4/25

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Shey Conover, Melissa Burns, Peter Anderson, Stephen Pendleton, Peter Rothschild

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Jan Harmen, Peter Willcox

Others Present via Zoom:

Jennifer West, Dan Tutor, Terry Sanderson

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

S. Conover welcomed the new and returning members, Peter and Pete. It's nice to see both around the table.

Minutes of May 7, 2025, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve the minutes of May 7, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. P. Rothschild abstained.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR VICTUALER RENEWALS

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to enter into Public Hearing for the Victualer Renewals. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

Victualer Renewals:

- Dark Harbor Shop
- Island Market
- Sand Castle Grille
- Island Made Treats
- Islesboro Community Center
- Big Island Grille
- Tarratine Golf & Yacht Clubs

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

- Durkee's General Store

We have complete applications for the Island Market, Sand Castle Grille, Island Made Treats, and the Islesboro Community Center. We are waiting on items for the Dark Harbor Shop, Tarratine Yacht Club & Golf Club, Durkee's, and Big Island Grille.

S. Conover asked J. Anderson if there are any substantive changes in any of the applications. J. Anderson answered that there are not. She added that it states on the front of each application that we don't give a permit unless the application is complete after we receive a water sample or the state issues a license.

M. Burns asked if only the complete applications should be approved tonight. J. Anderson answered that normally, we do them all, and then we give out the permit when we receive all the information.

Exit Public Hearing.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to approve the slate of requests for Victualer Licenses, pending completion. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. P. Anderson abstained.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

Peter Willcox read from his report with an overview of the current situation: (Full report attached.)

On April 29th, the Maine Legislature Transportation Committee voted on a number of bills. LD 1231, which states that ferries must remain on the islands, passed unanimously and is expected to be voted into law. It was at this hearing that Van Note shared his "White Paper." This was the first time anyone had seen this, and there was no opportunity to comment on it. Among the inaccuracies was the notion that the ferry service only serves about 2,700 persons. Van Note says in the White Paper that it's time for the MDOT to stop running the ferry service.

The latest word from Lincolnville is that the Margaret Chase Smith returns tomorrow.

EMERGENCY FERRY TASK FORCE UPDATE

Peter Willcox reported that the Committee is going ahead with plans to write a report regarding shifting of the overnight berthing to Lincolnville. A wave buoy south of Lincolnville will collect data for a year. This report may be necessary in the future.

P. Rothschild stated that the inaccuracy is not only in the increase in population created by the summer residents, it's also over 100 workers coming over every day. Also, in no other community in Maine is the number of residents compared with the amount that the DOT invests in roads and other facilities. That's a bogus comparison.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

S. Conover added that there was a bill that was modified to do a study to look at the structure for how the ferry service runs. That bill was pulled by the Chair of the Transportation Committee before it hit public hearing. It will be interesting to see if and how Van Note brings that forward to the FSAB.

P. Willcox added that, in his opinion, the FSAB is a cloud. We don't vote and we don't have any control over what happens. There was a bill suggesting that it change, but now it seems the whole ferry system might be reworked.

S. Conover stated that having that mandated by the legislature is no longer on the table. It would require the commissioner to work with the FSAB to keep that conversation going. There was a bill he was trying to get enacted to have a study by a committee formed by the legislature, which they declined to support.

S. Pendleton stated it will be important to watch the next reaction. Then we'll know if we have a champion somewhere else helping us.

M. Burns asked about Bill Geary. He was the Director of the Maine State Ferry Service (MSFS), but got promoted and was acting as Interim Director. Have they filled the position? Peter replied that his understanding is that Geary is still Interim. The one applicant who used to be Director of the MSFS didn't even get an interview. As far as Peter knows, they haven't closed the interview process. The FSAB meeting that was supposed to happen last week got cancelled with short notice. They stated it was because Bill Geary was on vacation.

S. Conover stated that there was a lot of discussion at the Transportation Committee about the lack of transparency that the DOT operates around the FSAB. There is no interested-parties mailing list. Their standard answer is that the information is on the website, but it's not really available on the website. It will be interesting to see if they improve notice of their meetings, along with minutes or video recordings. Peter Willcox added that the FSAB meetings are recorded. However, the recording of the meeting last October where Van Note spoke and proposed this whole thing is missing.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that the next SLR Committee meeting will be tomorrow, May 22nd at 4:30pm.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

S. Pendleton stated that the Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Health Center will be held on June 19th.

S. Conover added that Lauren suggested that perhaps we don't need this as a standing agenda item anymore. S. Conover is okay with removing it, with the caveat that we get

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

regular updates on the renovation for Public Safety. She's happy to have one standing bullet point for all three projects combined for when there's an update on any of them.

UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE UPDATE

S. Pendleton reported that at the last meeting, he had stated we couldn't continue with this kind of delay. He talked with Mark Ouellette, who stated he will have final drawings to Rod Norburg at Northport Builders by Friday at noon. Rod will have minor changes to look at to provide the final numbers. The quote doesn't include everything that Rod will need to get the permits. S. Pendleton is trying to get the blank contract that we want to use. We'll take that along with how Northport wants to be paid, and we'll have a contract that's standardized, with an addendum on how we're going to pay on deliverables.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: June 2nd, 5:00pm.
- Sea Level Rise: May 22nd, 4:30pm.
- Housing Committee: June 5th, 5:00pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 5/21/25 and Minutes of 5/7/25 Select Board Regular Meeting
- Victualer Applications
- Committee Minutes
 - 4/24/25 Grindle Point Lighthouse Committee meeting
- Correspondence
 - Health Center Ribbon Cutting and Open House Thursday, June 19th, 10am – 1 pm. Guided tours July 12th, 10am – 3pm.
 - 6/1/25 summer ferry rates
 - Margaret Chase Smith due back this week
- New Business
 - Annual Chair & Vice Chair elections.
 - Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants Policy
 - Sundog Solar proposal for new Health Center building.
 - The contract isn't included. J. Anderson emailed Harriet.
- Handouts
 - None
- Manager
 - Committee Chair meeting in September.
 - Working on getting a company to do striping for parking lot at Grindle Point. It's the company that's doing the Municipal Building lot. The pavers want to come on Tuesday.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

- Warrant FY25 #24

CORRESPONDENCE

P. Anderson stated he's been contacted by Ben Smith, who is wondering if any progress has been made with his immigrations-related policy proposal. He would appreciate us following up.

S. Conover requested this be added to the next agenda. She will be able to give an update from the conversations she's had with Fred Porter. It sounded like he is willing to put language in his procedures. However, he did some research in talking with folks in the Sheriff's Department and other departments in the county, and they did not have suggested language. Two proposed bills haven't passed at the state level yet. S. Conover would like to have another conversation with Fred before the next meeting. Based on feedback from our attorney, it seems that the language that's been drafted could be sufficient for his manual that provides him some protection, but doesn't require anything further than what he's currently doing. We may end up tabling the issue until the legislative process is over.

OLD BUSINESS

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Elections of Chair and Vice Chair

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to nominate Shey Conover as Chair. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. S. Conover abstained.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to nominate Peter Anderson as Vice Chair. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. P. Anderson abstained.

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by P. Rothschild, to nominate Steve Pendleton as Vice Chair. No discussion. Motion dropped.

2. Annual Policy on Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for Employee Wages

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by P. Anderson, to nominate Melissa Burns and Peter Rothschild to sign Warrants for Employee Wages. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

3. Approve Sundog Solar Proposal for Health Center Solar Panels

The Energy Committee received several proposals in response to the RFP. They are recommending Sundog Solar, who came in as the lowest bid and also had a number of other benefits.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by M. Burns, to approve Janet Anderson entering into a contract with Sundog Solar. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #24

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY25 #24. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

Energy Committee: Kathy Kerr

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to appoint Kathy Kerr to the Energy Committee. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

M. Burns asked when the Board can go through the list of Committees and reassign ex-officio duties. J. Anderson stated that this can be on the next agenda.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: Looking forward to working with this group again for another year.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: No comments.

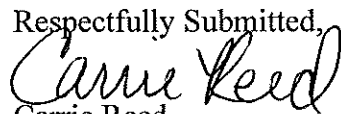
INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

M. Burns: Congratulations to Pete!

S. Pendleton: No comments.

P. Rothschild: Wondering about the Select Board's involvement in legislation and expressing our opinions about the direction of DOT. He would also like to make affordable housing a priority and be involved with that. Another question is how do we attract magnet students. He would also like to address parking at Grindle Point.

Motion by M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to adjourn meeting at 6:47 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Reed
Secretary