

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

 **APPROVED**

5/21/25

MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Members Present via Zoom: Vice Chair Lauren Bruce

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Peter Rothschild, Linda Gillies, Murt Durkee

Others Present via Zoom:

Sam Hill, Pete (Andrew) Anderson, Josh Leach, Jen McFarland, Dan Tutor, Fred Porter, Scott de Grasse, Elizabeth Hayden, Amy Mulnix, Terry Sanderson, Janis Petzel, admin (unknown name).

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

Minutes of April 23, 2025, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve the minutes of April 23, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

FERRY SERVICE & EMERGENCY FERRY TASK FORCE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that the Public Hearing on April 29th was well attended from many islands, and there were good comments. DOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note submitted a White Paper, making lots of sweeping suggestions, which was a bit of a surprise to the Transportation Committee. Gabe Pendleton has written a response to that White Paper. He sent it to the Transportation Committee under his name, but it covers all the points that we would want. He has heard good feedback on that. The next step is a work session, which is likely to be next week. A date has not been set yet. This is an opportunity for the Transportation Committee to discuss the information that was shared at the Public Hearing.

Scott de Grasse asked if the list of critical points has been distributed so that individuals can respond to the Transportation Committee. S. Conover replied that she has not seen Gabe's letter distilled into bullet points yet. She is happy to work with Gabe to get that out, hopefully tomorrow.

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SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that the next SLR Committee meeting has been rescheduled to May 22nd due to the ICS spring concert on the 8th.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

L. Bruce reported that the cabinets, interior doors, and flooring have been installed at the Health Center. Painting is nearing completion. The building is expected to be move-in ready by late May/early June. The official ribbon cutting and tour will be held on Saturday, June 14th. An additional tour is scheduled for Saturday, July 12th.

The renovation effort for Public Safety is ongoing. L&M Design, LLC is preparing a design for the space, and that has been gone over thoroughly with Fred & Murt. Cleaning and painting will be coordinated, and the Town will be undertaking that effort.

UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE UPDATE

S. Pendleton reported that we have a couple of contracts that we're looking at to merge together. Northport Builders sent a draft that needs to be incorporated into what we want to use. Stephen Blatt Architects is forwarding final drawings to Northport so that they can finalize costs. There was a reduction of cement that's required, which is good, but that's offset by other things. We should have the final numbers at the next Select Board meeting. Northport wants to be paid a certain way, and we want to make sure that the deliverables are aligned with our payment structure so that we're paying on deliverables.

Scott de Grasse asked if they came back with modified numbers for the radiant in-floor heating system. Steve replied that they came back with general numbers, but we don't have the final design drawings yet, so nothing's been finalized yet. Because of those changes we requested, there had to be architectural changes, and there were costs associated with that, which are being covered. We're not concerned that it will go over the budget. We've had additional donations that gave us some elasticity in that cost.

Scott asked if we are proceeding with the dual heat systems, or if the Select Board decided to go forward with the recommendation of various parties to use a traditional boiler. Steve replied that this issue was agreed to over a month ago, and is noted in the meeting minutes. We listened to the concerns that were brought to us regarding the heat pumps vs. radiant in-floor heat, and made that change. There are not going to be heat pumps. There will be two ceiling heaters that can heat quickly. This change is the reason we're still waiting for the final numbers, because all that changed the drawings.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: May 12th, 5:00pm.
- Annual Town Meeting: May 17th, 9:00am, GHK Center
 - S. Conover will present a summary of the increase in the budget.

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- J. Anderson will ask Attorney Collins if she can be available via phone.
- Laura Read is organizing childcare. S. Conover suggested advertising this. This will be paid for.
- The Junior Class will provide breakfast items for sale.

Scott de Grasse noted that the property next to the ferry terminal is being prepared to be put on the market. Can the Town acquire it and turn it into a park with parking? S. Conover stated that some research has been done, but there is no formal proposal at this time. Since we don't have a fiscal note in the Town Meeting budget, we're not anticipating a discussion on it at Town Meeting. We will be voting on articles that are in the Town Report. It's unlikely that we can raise the money in this Town Meeting to enter any kind of purchase agreement.

Scott asked about what the procedure should be if the property goes on the market. Can the Town consider doing a right of first refusal? S. Conover replied that the owner has approached us, but it was at a price that did not seem we would be able to fund at this time.

S. Conover added that the Grindle Point Parking Committee is the group that should be working on this rather than forming a separate committee to address this work. There has been some research and conversations historically with other parties in the neighborhood. Scott asked if he could have the names of the Parking Committee members.

J. Anderson stated she will talk with property owner Taylor Watts anyway, as we need to get permission for an increased size of the fireworks show. Mr. Watts mentioned in an email that we need to talk about other things.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 5/7/25 and Minutes of 4/23/25 Select Board Regular Meeting
- Committee Minutes
 - 4/24/25 Emergency Ferry Task Force Minutes
- Correspondence
 - 4/30/25 Bar Harbor Wealth Management sub-accounting report.
- New Business
 - None.
- Handouts
 - Draft 2025 Islesboro Looking Ahead
- Manager
 - East Shore Drive is finished!
 - 5/6 Town Reports arrived; they will be mailed on Friday and posted online.
- Warrant FY25 #23

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CORRESPONDENCE

Covered in Town Manager's report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss 2025 "Islesboro Looking Ahead."

- S. Pendleton handed out a draft list of topics for discussion. He stated the draft Islesboro Looking Ahead (ILA) document that was sent out is comprehensive and provides a good overview of both looking back, giving context to what's been done, and looking forward to what we need to focus on, or what the community thinks we need to be focused on.
- S. Pendleton stated he took a different path on this. If this is really about looking forward to what we as a community want to be, he's not sure all this other context should be included. Maybe we come up with a year-in-review-type document. He sent a request for that type of information to all the committee heads last week, so we could show all the good things that these committees had produced over the last year or two.
- S. Pendleton asked the Board if the ILA document should be solely about looking forward. What are the three to five most pressing issues?
- The four categories that S. Pendleton came up with after listening to the community and researching the existing 7-page document:
 1. Residents' quality of life and livelihoods (rising ferry costs impacting food, fuel, etc., and how that affects families' livelihoods and ability to stay or come to the island).
 2. The functioning of the town government for the betterment of all residents (are we listening and focused on the right things?).
 3. The island's physical ecosystem, resources, and infrastructure (rising sea levels, and things we can control, such as a piece of equipment for cutting trees back vs. how to bypass the Narrows in the future).
 4. What new actions/activities for the future (visionary standpoint, what do we want the island to be? Are we fulfilling our mission?).
- S. Pendleton asked for feedback on this approach and list.
- S. Conover stated his categories are good as general buckets. The devil's in the details. We don't want too many details under each of these things. We want to agree on the top two or three things that are actionable items over the next one to five years.
- P. Anderson stated it's worth reviewing what's in the current document. He'd be happy to think about slimming it down, but is hesitant to remove any major details, as he doesn't want it to be perceived as removing something from the plan. If this is one of the few documents that citizens look at, it's good to streamline it, and good to have a more year-by-year oriented direction, without removing the history of it.

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- S. Pendleton added that the first document focuses on the relationship between year-round and summer residents and how we work harmoniously together. That's good, but do we really need it in this document?
- P. Anderson would support having that context there, even if it's trimmed.
- S. Conover stated that this is one of those things that is nice to say out loud, because it's part of what makes Islesboro unique, and making sure it's recognized that we are trying to communicate with the year-round and seasonal communities, and that that relationship is important to us.
- S. Conover stated that a lot of this is about celebrating our accomplishments. Perhaps there's too much of that and not enough about looking forward to what's next.
- J. Anderson explained that this document came out of meetings that were originally intended for doing a full comprehensive plan.
- L. Bruce suggested recategorizing and refocusing the document. This has been a vehicle for sharing what the town has accomplished, and some of the things we want to do in the future. Maybe it just needs work on the narrative, but we might not want to lose too much of the history.
- S. Pendleton stated that he will take this input and make a second draft.
- Janis Petzel asked if the Board would like input from Energy Committee, which has been writing grants and doing things to move us forward with clean energy. The Committee would be happy to participate in helping with this. S. Pendleton replied that he has reached out to Harriet.
- Peter Rothschild thinks that this is a great direction. The first item on the list needs more specifics. Fundamentally, we are talking about the sustainability of life on this island. The four critical ingredients before us now are: the ferry service, affordable housing, sustainability of the school, and our capability to address the impact of rising sea levels and climate change. It seems we need to come right out and say that at the outset. Focus on the critical issues that will make continued life on Islesboro possible.
- Scott de Grasse suggested that the infrastructure aspect be broken down into different elements, long-term, and short-term items, and making sure the DPW is funded and staffed to the level of maintaining our critical roads and parks. He suggested a bullet-point format for highlighting key factors. Assess the list of things to do and get it to the five most critical. Getting feedback from residents is important.
- M. Burns pointed out that there are committee reports and updates in the Annual Town Report.
- M. Burns asked about when we want to have this done. S. Conover replied that it would be nice to have it done by summer, but the date isn't important. In an ideal world, we would be looking at this ahead of the budget workshops so that we agree on the big picture issues, and the budget reflects that.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. None.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #23

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY25 #23. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

Islesboro Economic Sustainability Corporation: Michael Nelson, Larry Hoder

MOTION BY L. Bruce, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve the slate of appointments. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. P. Anderson abstained.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce: No comments.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

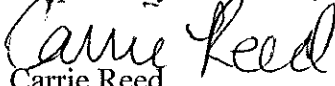
M. Burns: No comments.

S. Pendleton: No comments.

P. Anderson: Good luck to the kids tomorrow night. The concert sounds like it's coming along nicely, with sea shanties this year. The junior class auction is Saturday night.

Motion by M. Burns to adjourn meeting at 6:52 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,


Carrie Reed
Secretary