

6/18/24

MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, John King

Others Present via Zoom:

Elizabeth Hayden, Cressica Brazier, Maggy Willcox, Peter Willcox.

Call to Order: Chair Shey Conover called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM, and a quorum was established.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by L. Bruce, to approve the minutes of May 22, 2024 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

MOTION BY L. Bruce, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the minutes of May 30, 2024 Special Meeting, as written. Discussion about whether or not the meeting falls under the purview of a job interview. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Cressica Brazier shared the draft letter of support from the Energy Committee for the Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Technical Assistance Program.

S. Conover stated that the Select Board supported signing it at the last meeting, and is comfortable signing it tonight.

MOTION BY L. Bruce, seconded by M. Burns, to sign the C2C letter. No further discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

John King reported there was an Advisory Board meeting recently. The new Tariff is still in the works; target date July 1. It's not under the control of the DOT, it's under the administrative procedures act and needs to be run by the AG's office and then submitted to the Secretary of State's office for publication.

S. Conover asked how much notice we need to be given before they say what the final number is and when it will be enacted. John King answered that when it's published by the Secretary of State's office, we will be given that information. John doubts that they will make any changes since the draft.

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John provided a handout with correspondence and ferry design drawings.

- A. 12/9/2021 letter to then General Manager Mark Higgins following the ferry survey that we conducted in two parts in October and November. The letter included a summary of the questionnaire and survey results. It states that we understood that the plan was to replace the MCS with a double-ended electric-powered vessel. It also states that an open-deck configuration would be preferable to the current setup. In addition, we would like deck-level passenger accommodations, bathroom facilities, and walk-on luggage storage. 47 people had complaints about the lanes on the MCS.
- B. A concept drawing by Gilbert Associates provided by Mark Higgins dated 8/22. There is seating at the deck level. It only holds 32 cars, partly because the lifeboat is on the deck instead of up above. The total seating is in the 50s, which didn't seem to be enough. At that time, John got in touch with the new Executive Director Bill Geary over the phone, and asked for a ridership count. It averages a little over 100.
- C. 5/23/2023 email to Bill Geary. John met with Bill Geary on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, and expressed that the concept design won't cut it. John followed up and sent a copy of the letter to Mark Higgins of 12/9/21, along with the survey results, and it was copied to Bill Pulver at the DOT. Since that time, John has been on them to keep us in the loop, but hasn't been hearing much. The most he heard was that ABV had been given the contract for the propulsion of the vessel.
- D. Memorial Day Weekend, 5/25/2024, Bill Geary sent an email saying he wanted to share the latest design details, forwarding an email from Karyn Cox. 59 seats in the port cabin, 52 seats in the starboard cabin, 59 outdoor seats. Total 170 seats.
- E. New drawing, dated 12/9/21, looks remarkably like the current MCS. John called Bill Geary and explained the history of the survey and reminded him that we'd sent everything. He said he'd look into it. John sent him an email yesterday. There was a conference call yesterday with Bill Geary and Bill Pulver. They weren't specific about how this came about, but there were three concepts being considered. Other than sending the survey results, we've had no input or no conversation between the Town and the Ferry Service, Gilbert Associates, or DOT.

S. Conover asked if this is the final design, or when will it be finalized. John believes the drawing he saw on 5/25 of this year has been around since 12/9/21. John didn't get a complete answer, but he's pretty sure that this is what they are planning for the final product. It has more seats, but the lane configuration is the same as the current MCS.

John has mentioned before to the Ferry Service that what the Town asked for in a design has been done in Europe. There's a vessel called the Ellen. It is open-decked, seats close to 300 people, everything is on the deck level, and it's virtually the same length and width as ours. John mentioned this in his call yesterday. Ours is not construction ready.

S. Conover asked about the process when they built the Vinalhaven ferry. Was there community engagement? John doesn't think there was a lot of input, but there's been

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discussion at the Advisory Board that the Town should have some input into the product. The three big takeaways of the survey were: ultimate power, double-ended, and open deck. Two out of three is better than zero, but this has become very frustrating. We spent a lot of time on the survey, and spent time talking with Bill Geary about it.

S. Conover asked if it would be helpful to have a letter from the Select Board, indicating that we've been getting regular updates, and that we would appreciate understanding how the community can be engaged in the process, and where there are opportunities for comments that can impact the design at this phase. John said that a letter might help. Bill Pulver told John that they were going to try to recreate exactly what was going on when the three concepts were being considered. We will get more info from DOT soon.

P. Anderson suggested waiting for a couple weeks to see if they provide more information. In two weeks, consider a motion to write a letter. We appreciate John going to bat for us so often.

L. Bruce added that we should be thoughtful about this. We don't want to write something that will get us into less of a relationship. On the other hand, John has been trying, but they've come up something that doesn't reflect what he's been sharing. At what point do we get assertive and say we're disappointed with the fact that our liaison does not see his effort reflected?

John will email Bill Pulver and say there's a fair amount of concern. Half the people who were surveyed did not like the configuration of the vessel and wanted it changed. He will come back in two weeks and we can discuss an appropriate response.

M. Burns suggested reaching out to Karyn Cox to see if she is aware of the surveys.

SEA LEVEL RISE

S. Conover provided a handout with a calendar to keep the SLR Committee on task. She reported that the next Wednesday, June 12th GZA Engineering will present their alternatives analysis for the Narrows. It will be here, via Zoom & in-person. Following that presentation, we have a month to get questions answered and do community outreach to help inform which alternative we will ask them to bring forward to a 30% preliminary design. We will ask the Select Board to endorse a design at the July 17th meeting. That would allow GZA to begin their preliminary design. They would develop a report that would come to us in the November-December timeframe.

J. Anderson asked if Liv would be announcing the June 12th meeting. S. Conover replied that we would like to put out a Constant Contact announcement. We will encourage people to participate via Zoom. GZA will give us a report in July.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT

L. Bruce reported that the well for the new Health Center building has been drilled. 550' to get 10-12 gpm. Everything is moving forward as planned.

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J. Anderson added that the annex will be placed behind the Town Office off the pavement.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: June 17th, 5:00pm.
- Sea Level Rise Presentation: June 12th, 5:00pm.
- Annual Town Meeting: June 15th, 9:00am.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 6/5/24 and Minutes of 5/22/24 and 5/30/24 Select Board Meetings.
- Committee Minutes/Correspondence:
 - Flyer from Grindle Point Light Station regarding the ship model *Puma* that was damaged in the storm. Wally Veazie has been restoring.
 - Copies of two property tax abatement applications that were denied by the Waldo County Commissioners Court.
- Bar Harbor Wealth Management Capital Reserves sub-accounting for May 2024.
- 3/26/24 Minutes of the Housing Committee.
- John King handout regarding the new ferry.
- Warrant #25

New Business: MDOT request for support for the second half of funds needed to the ferry terminal upgrade project.

Legal Services: Kristin Collins, Esq. of Preti Flaherty, Monday, June 10th at 2pm.

- To be determined.

Paving begins Monday, June 10th. Ruthie James Rd & Reeby Rd., Narrows by stone wall, other culverts, Meadow Pond Rd at Sprague's Beach.

- S. Conover asked if the Town has communicated with residents of Ruthie James Road. J. Anderson will find out which day they will pave that road and send notice.

CORRESPONDENCE

No other correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

1. None.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Sign MDOT Request for Letter of Support for Lincolnville/Islesboro Ferry Terminal Upgrades.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by L. Bruce, to sign the Letter of Support. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY24 #25

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by M. Burns, to approve Warrant FY24 #25. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

APPOINTMENTS:

None.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce: No comments.

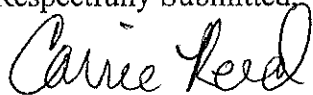
INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

P. Anderson: No comments.

M. Burns: Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Junior Class. They had a successful Auction and were pleased with the turnout. Congratulations to Jacob Zolleman and Logan Burns for making it to State Varsity Track and bringing home medals. Graduation is Saturday, June 8th, at noon.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to Adjourn Meeting at 6:50 PM. No Discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully Submitted



Carrie Reed
Secretary

