

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, July 15, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Peter Rothschild, Vice Chair Peter Anderson, Stephen Pendleton, Holly Fields, Dylan Purington

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Dave Dyer, Bill Schoppe, Elana Kehoe, Adam Long, Trevor Dakers, Don Johnson, Lindsay Dakers, Don Wagner, Phil Berry, Audrey Berry, Clifford Houle, Laura Houle, Bill Tilden, Lee Fentress, Dana Creel, Daniel Frohling

Others Present via Zoom:

Jennifer McFarland, Elizabeth Hayden, Amy Mulnix, Jordy Watson, Jennifer Selendy, Michael Miller, Daniel Tutor, Kate Misenheimer, Ch phone, PDK's iPhone

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

Minutes of July 1, 2026, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY H. Fields, seconded by D. Purington, to approve the minutes of July 1, 2026 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Lee Fentress stated that Dana Creel, himself, and several other residents on East Shore Drive are concerned about the clearing and soil disturbance there, and the new planting on the stretch between Decker Rd and the narrow going south. The trees are very close to the road, possibly not meeting setbacks. About four years ago, the Town recognized that this is an existing road, and therefore part of its jurisdiction for code enforcement.

P. Rothschild replied that the Board will take this up under New Business. He added that he understands from Dave Dyer that the property owner who planted the trees has already been notified to move them back and had done so.

Lee Fentress stated he will submit a more detailed list of concerns. He stated there's a lot of traffic in that area, and in no time, those trees are going to be on top of the cars.

P. Rothschild stated that he believes it is up to the Town Office to administer and enforce the ordinance that we have. If the trees are encroaching on the road, they should be moved.

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Adam Long stated that this is in process. They are moving the trees on the non-maintained section of East Shore Drive.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

No update.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

The Sea Level Rise Committee will present at the Summer Info Meeting on July 30th.

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

Up-Island Public Safety Garage: S. Pendleton reported that the work is on schedule and under budget. The committee will have a meeting to look at the finances for the final Health Center's punch-list, the Public Safety renovation, and the Up-Island Garage.

Public Safety Renovation: S. Pendleton stated that the work continues. No update.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: July 27th, 5:00pm.
- Summer Info Meeting: July 30th, 5:30pm
 - P. Rothschild stated that there is a tentative agenda. He's open to any other items that we should be presenting to the public. There will be presentations from the Energy Committee, Sea Level Rise Committee, and the Municipal Building Project Committee (MBPC).
 - Michael Hutcherson will be running the A/V equipment, and there may be a Zoom option. If there is Zoom, S. Pendleton will present for the MBPC.
- Dark Harbor Waste Water (Pollution Control) Committee: July 20th, 4:00pm.
- Lighthouse Committee: July 23rd, 4:00pm.
- Groundwater Protection Committee: July 28th, 4:00pm

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 7/15/26 and Minutes of 7/1/26 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
- Correspondence
- Handouts:
 - Bar Harbor Wealth Management sub-accounting.

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- Manager:
 - 7/1 Question about requiring all new building permits to mandate contractors obtain demo bins for job sites to lessen the load on the town's bins. Currently the Planning Board "encourages" contractors to get a bin. ANSWER: Need an ordinance to mandate. The Planning Board should be involved in this discussion going forward.
 - Adam Long asked about demo bins. If doing a small job, a bin would be a huge expense for the homeowner. J. Anderson replied that this would be for larger jobs.
 - Jordy Watson stated he's talked with various transfer stations. Bucksport does not allow anything bigger than a pickup truck, with no more than an 8' bed, and they have to manually unload. It's possible to write an ordinance that would inhibit large amounts of materials to be deposited into the demo bins.
 - Laura Houle asked about using a scale. People would know what they are paying for. It takes the guesswork out.
 - J. Anderson replied that we have looked at a scale, but it is very expensive. We can look again.
 - Working on FY26 sewer bills. Will be ready for the 7/29 meeting.
 - The front office team is working on IMB bills to go out next week.
- Warrant #28 – FY26 Accounts Payable
- Warrant #2 – FY27
- P. Rothschild stated he has asked Janet to update us on plans for general repaving, and possibly painting the parking area on Ferry Rd, which may also require some paving.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Finalize Summer Info Meeting Agenda, July 30th at GHK.
 - P. Rothschild stated he covered this in the Upcoming Meetings section.
 - J. Anderson stated she hasn't heard from the School Board yet.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss Dylan Purington's 7/1/26 email re: Clearcutting in restricted shoreland zones.
 - D. Purington read from his written statement (to be attached) and stated he spoke with Code Enforcement Officer Dave Dyer. It appears the work in question is in compliance with our current ordinance. However, the broader

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concern is with the process and whether the Town is providing enough incentive for people to obtain the proper permits before work begins, rather than after the fact.

- D. Purington added that he thinks it's a conversation worth having as a Board. It may be appropriate to look at how we handle retroactive permits and consequences. He raised this issue because he cares about applying the ordinances fairly, consistently, and in a way that protects the interests of the town.
- P. Rothschild asked what happens when someone violates the ordinance.
- D. Dyer explained that in this case the property owner was fined. He is working with the property manager on restoration of the vegetation. The groundwork that has been done is going to be a lot more conducive to regrowth of trees. They will be able to take root and not just sit on top of the ledge like they were before. The issue is being resolved.
- D. Purington stated he is encouraging people to go to Dave with questions.
- D. Dyer added that if any members of the community have any concerns or questions about any building or tree removal, please reach out to him.
- Adam Long, property manager for the property in question, stated that if anyone wants to see what's going on with the property, he is happy to talk with them. We've had significant storm damage over the last ten years. We are trying with our sea wall to stop the erosion, and we've brought soil in. It will be beautiful when it's done. We're planting what we have with the drought we're in.
- S. Pendleton stated that his concern is that our ordinances keep up with today's market, meaning if someone has the funds to pay a fine and still do what they want, that's perhaps not in the best interest of the community. We need to look at the ordinance and re-evaluate. We should re-establish that when someone does work, it's in compliance with what the community expects out of a trusted builder. It's a topic we should discuss.
- P. Rothschild stated it's appropriate to review the ordinance. We may need to revisit the consequences of violations.
- S. Pendleton clarified that this is not about any individual builder, but wants to bring it to a more global level.
- Bill Schoppe stated it's his understanding that the Select Board sets the prices on permits. He asked if the fine is enough to deter someone from taking a sidestep. We have a Code Enforcement Officer, but we don't have inspections other than pro forma. Unless someone brings something to the CEO's attention, he won't realize that someone might be doing something they're not supposed to be doing.
- D. Dyer stated he keeps an eye on active permits for tree work and building.

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- Elana Kehoe stated she is an abutter to the property. They've been good about giving notices for work. There are still issues. One of the worrying things is being able to look straight through to the ocean. The amount of wind that comes through is giving pause about trees on her property. There are issues with a well that may have been damaged by blasting. She has had issues with the work being done on this property and how the ordinance is being followed. It's upsetting that the majority of people think that it doesn't matter, because he'll just pay the fine and do what he wants anyway. A fine is only a hardship on those who don't have a lot of money. A beach that the island adored is gone because of a seawall that probably wasn't needed.
 - P. Rothschild stated the Select Board has just agreed to review the ordinance and fines.
 - Phil Berry stated that in the past, for the blasting, they used a seismograph on a neighbor's doorstep to measure the sound effect. The traffic going by on Main Rd was disturbing the house more than the blasting.
 - Elizabeth Hayden stated she filed a Road Complaint Reporting form at the Town Office about trees that have been planted on East Shore Drive. She asked what is a reasonable amount of time for a response to a complaint. She also mentioned that there was a hazard with a bush on the corner of Decker Rd and Main Rd that was blocking the line of sight. That was promptly cut down. She hasn't heard anything about the trees that were planted.
 - D. Dyer answered that those trees are being moved. He will drive down and take a look in the morning.
 - Kate Misenheimer asked about an issue with another property. She clarified that she's not trying to go after the people who do the work or the property owner, but she has a concern that 55,000 gallons of water per day is being pumped out of a fire pond to water the Selendys' trees and sod. She doesn't know how the fire ponds work. She's been told that this activity is legal, but with the current dry conditions, this seems concerning.
 - Don Wagner stated that his crew drew down the pond on Thursday and Friday. The pond is spring fed, and by Monday, it recovered. If 33,000 gallons are taken from a one-acre pond, it drops a foot. It recovered in a few days. It's a private pond. He added that they have a solution that will probably be online by Tuesday or Wednesday where they will be sourcing water on-site.
2. Waldo County Budget Committee Ballot.
- P. Rothschild stated that it looks like there's only one candidate for the three-year term. He asked if anyone knows the candidate, Ian Stover.
 - Jordy Watson stated he knows the candidate. He's a former firefighter.

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- S. Pendleton stated that unless the Board is positive about an individual, he suggests we pass.
- J. Anderson stated the Board may consider putting someone from this Board on the budget committee.
- D. Purington stated he would think about it.

3. Annual Slate of Appointments

- J. Anderson stated that she is still updating the list. Tonight, she wants to make sure the ex-officio roles are correct. She asked the Town Attorney about Holly voting on the Energy Committee as an ex-officio.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by H. Fields, to approve the Annual Slate of Appointments. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

MOTION BY H. Fields, seconded by D. Purington, to appoint Town Manager Janet Anderson to her various roles. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Ferry Line Parking Change Idea.

- S. Pendleton introduced his idea for moving the parking along the guardrail to the other side of the road, which would eliminate the conflict between the parking spots and the third ferry line. It also rolls all the parking onto the same side of the road.
- P. Rothschild stated that this proposal may conflict with the traffic that's coming off the ferry.
- H. Fields stated that because this is a state road, we may not be able to change the parking area. She suggested asking DOT.
- P. Rothschild stated he will go to the DOT office.
- Jordy Watson expressed concern about the structural integrity of that side of the road, as it took a big hit in the storm a couple years ago. DOT should check the integrity of the road regardless of whether parking is there or not.
- P. Anderson asked if it would be mono-directional parking, faced away from the ferry. He also asked about liability for vehicles parked there, as there is a potential for more water damage, if we have people park there.
- P. Rothschild stated that the Town owns the parking lot. Is there any issue with liability there?
- D. Purington stated that there were some cars lost in Lincolnville because they didn't move them, but there's ample warning for these storms. We should definitely have a sign to the effect of parking at your own risk.

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- P. Rothschild added that he just learned that the DOT's position is they're not going to touch state land until it's been flooded six times.
- S. Pendleton stated that we could impose a parking ban for storm surges like we do for snow storms.

2. Transfer Station Pricing.

- S. Pendleton stated that Jeff does a fabulous job and is a premier Town employee. The other day, Steve went up with a very small load of items for the demo bin, which used to cost about \$5 - \$10. Jeff pointed to the new price sheet and charged \$22.50, which is the lowest amount on there. We need to look at the possibility of a local resident rate. He'd like to give Jeff some leeway in the ability to charge a lower price for locals.
- J. Anderson stated that she and Brian Bohanon came up with these prices. We went up 50% from last year. We were losing money hand over fist. This is not going to solve any problems, but is a band-aid. Jeff has an individual item schedule that he can work from. She will talk with him.
- P. Anderson feels that this crosses into dangerous territory of local vs. non. If we tell Jeff he has the freedom to decide, then setting those prices last meeting didn't mean much. If we're discussing fines for violating ordinances, then we need to make sure everyone is following the same rules.
- S. Pendleton suggested maybe just making sure there's a certain volume for the \$22.50 price.
- D. Purington stated getting rubbish off island must incur a large cost for us. Our prices seem to be on the higher end. To hear that we're not covering costs is a concern. We don't want it to be so expensive that people burn their trash.
- B. Schoppe reiterated what Laura said about using a scale. If we're charging per square foot, how does one know how many squares are in a trailer? Because the driver says so? If we did it by weight, it would be cut and dried.
- J. Anderson stated she will look into a scale, but it's thousands of dollars.
- P. Anderson asked if the removal fee is paid by weight or volume. J. Anderson confirmed it's by the ton. P. Anderson stated that this leads us further down the path of getting a scale to make sure we're charging the appropriate amount to fill a dumpster.
- J. Anderson explained that it all depends on how it's loaded. This is one of the reasons Public Works would like a piece of equipment to pack it down.

3. Lighthouse Committee Requesting a Name Change to be "Grindle Point Light Station Committee."

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MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by H. Fields, to approve the name change of the Lighthouse Committee to the “Grindle Point Light Station Committee.” No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPROVE WARRANTS: FY26 #28 Accounts Payable and FY27 #2

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by H. Fields, to approve Warrant FY26 #28. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by H. Fields, to approve Warrant FY27 #2. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. None

CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Rothschild: I wrote letter to the School Board saying we support them.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: No comments.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

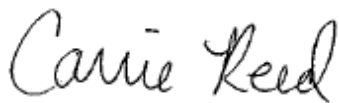
S. Pendleton: There's a document that he pulled from the State's budget. There was an act put in that mirrors what Ben Smith proposed regarding law enforcement agencies and immigration enforcement. This is an important piece of information that should be shared.

H. Fields: No comments.

D. Purington: No comments.

MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by D. Purington to adjourn meeting at 6:41 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary