

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, July 17, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

APPROVED

7/31/24

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Shey Conover, Melissa Burns, Peter Anderson, and Steve Pendleton

Members Present via Zoom: Vice Chair Lauren Bruce

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Nancy Alexander, Peter Rothschild, Liv Lenfestey, Melissa Olson

Others Present via Zoom:

Donna Leone, Zach Conover, Sue Stafford

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

Minutes of July 3, 2024.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve the minutes of July 3, 2024 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Zach Conover, Chair of the School Board, spoke via Zoom and requested the Special Town Meeting for the revised School Budget. He recommends August 1 at 6:00. He added that the School Board will meet on July 22nd, when the superintendent will present her recommended budget, and July 25th, when they will finalize and vote on that budget. The School Board will present the revised budget to the Town at a Public Hearing on Monday, July 29th at 5:30. Legal counsel will be available August 1st, and the Kinnicutt Center is available to hold the Special Town Meeting. We hope to get the budget passed in time to allow the Town to do all the work with taxes.

L. Bruce asked if the meeting on the 29th will be a public meeting for people to hear what's going on with the budget. Z. Conover confirmed that is correct. People can ask questions at this meeting. L. Bruce stated it would be great if there could be one more public meeting before the Special Town Meeting, but having a packet go out through Constant Contact will be very helpful.

S. Conover reported that she and Janet Anderson met with the new Town attorney Kristin Collins. She helped provide some clarity about how this process will work. She is holding August 1st so that she can be here in person. The Select Board will need to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant language at least one week ahead of the

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Town Meeting. The Warrant language we will be approving is the same language that was in the book. The budget that the School Board approves will be amendments that they recommend making from the floor, although it will have been presented in the informational meetings ahead of time. Z. Conover stated that this is correct. The Articles will get brought up, and then the School Board will make recommendations to change to match the new budget. Then we have to go back and reconsider some of the Articles that have already been passed, because we passed the Spending Articles, and we need to get those Articles to align with the actual budget so that everything goes into the State's financial systems properly.

Packet of info to go out through Constant Contact Friday, July 26th. Send a paper copy in mail with Warrant. Special Select Board meeting to sign Town Meeting Warrant on July 24th at 5:00.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve holding the Special Town Meeting on August 1, 2024 at 6:00pm. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to take the Agenda out of order. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sea Level Rise Recommendation.

S. Conover presented an information document with a summary of alternatives that GZA Engineering presented us with for consideration. They all included a two-phase approach. The first phase would be raising the road by two feet and making changes to the rock walls (revetment) to increase their effectiveness for mitigating storm surge. The Sea Level Rise Committee has selected the revetment styles that seem best:

- Phase 1.
 - Option C1: Bermed Revetment with Reef Balls. This option would be replacing the revetments at the southern and middle section of the Narrows, which is where the two rock walls are currently. We would need to remove the existing revetment and start from a new base. One of the alternatives was a very high wall which would obscure the view of the water. C1 is the short and wide option, not much higher than the current wall, but it has a berm further out into the inter-tidal zone, so it mitigates the wave action and reduces storm surge. It includes four rows of reef balls—an artificial reef for habitat creation and sediment control.
 - This is a nature-based solution, which will make us more competitive for grants.
 - C1 is estimated at \$3.5M - \$4.5M
 - 2027 is the earliest that we can begin construction on Phase 1.

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- Phase 2
 - Bridge option: raise road two feet, veer the road to the west. A bridge would cross the marsh area. The road would then land on what is now IIT property. We have met with Steve Miller of IIT, and they are interested in investigating this option. We may need a second bridge option over the northern Crow Cove marsh area. There's more work to be done for this study.
 - There is a possibility that we will rewild the current road after moving the road to the west.
 - Phase 2 is estimated at \$20M.
 - 2031 is the earliest that we will start construction for a Phase 2 project.
- GZA is recommending that we take this phased approach, recognizing that the revetments and raising the road would provide additional protection in the immediate future. It also gives us time that is required for planning Phase 2.
- The state has recommended for municipalities to *commit* to manage 1.5' of sea level rise by 2050, and 3' by 2100, but *prepare* to manage 3.9' by 2050 and 8.8' by 2100. Phase 1 would be our commitment, and Phase 2 is preparing for higher levels.

The SLR Committee is requesting approval to continue to work the planning process for Phase 1, Option C1, and Phase 2, continuing to pursue a bridge option as a longer-term solution. We would be working with GZA to bring Phase 1, C1 to 30% design with our existing grant funds, and we have grant money pending to hopefully fund the next round of planning for the permitting stage.

L. Bruce added that the revetment is a good short-term solution, but if we don't plan a bridge, we will have to rebuild the revetment anyway, because it doesn't last as long as a bridge would. S. Conover added that the current wall was completed in 1984; a revetment has had a lifespan of about 40 years.

M. Burns asked what will happen to the road after the bridge is built. S. Conover answered that will be part of the planning process. They have been in conversations with Donna Leone who owns the house there. We have discussed the potential of rewilding it. The elevation would stay the same, but we could remove the pavement. Or it could remain paved for a bike trail.

S. Pendleton asked if there is an ability to move both phases forward, but have them separate in terms of the Town voting on them. He suggests making sure they are separate when they come to the community, to keep them flexible.

S. Conover stated that they are asking for support to move the planning process forward. Before we get to any kind of construction phase, we would come back and ask for a Town vote with a complete finance package. We hope to get some federal funding.

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MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by L. Bruce, to approve, congratulate, and promote the SLR Committee to move forward in planning for Phase 1, Option C1, and into Phase 2. Discussion about how the approval process will be separate. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Melissa Olson, Director of the ALP Library, spoke about how the Library Trustees, the staff, and the Friends of the Library are working on a Sustainable Libraries Initiative Certification Program. It's a way for libraries to stay sustainable, not just environmentally, but relative to the community as well. A major piece of this program is energy efficiency. Cressica Brazier from the Energy Committee has instrumental in the energy efficiency projects. The Energy Committee is organizing heat pumps for the library. We are trying to get funding for solar panels. Melissa has approached the Friends of the Library to fund this project, but the Friends would like approval from the Select Board to put a solar array on the library. The proposal would have us create about 95% of our energy. The Trustees have endorsed this project. We will go to the Friends to ask for the funding.

M. Burns asked for clarification that the roof on the addition will be used for solar panels, and not the roof on the historic part of the building. Melissa Olson confirmed this and answered that they plan to remove half of the concrete tiles on the south side of the addition and replace them with asphalt shingles, and then cover them with the solar panels. The foundation around the historic building will not be affected.

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve solar panels being installed on the Library addition. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Back to the Order of the Agenda.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

John King was not present. S. Conover referred to emails. Ferry rates are going up August 1st. John King is planning to resign after tomorrow's Ferry Advisory Board meeting. S. Conover stated four people are interested in filling the position. She will work with John to document responsibilities of the position. Once he formally resigns, we can post a notice for the opening with the responsibilities listed, and ask candidates to submit a one-page letter of interest. At our next Board meeting, or on the 14th, we can review those and move to appoint a new representative.

S. Pendleton asked if the Select Board will interview candidates, or decide by the letters.

P. Anderson suggested having access to the letters/resumes prior to the meeting, discuss them lightly at the meeting, have the candidates present to answer questions or speak on their behalf if they choose, then go into Executive Session. This has been the process in several committee meetings.

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S. Pendleton suggested the Town look at hiring a lobbyist who associated and well-heelled with the Governor's office, to lobby for our positions in regard to the ferry.

S. Conover replied some of the issues have been discussed with the Town attorney, and in the past, it has been discussed when is the right time to push having the unfunded pension liability removed from the operated budget. What we have heard is, don't poke the bear; you won't win, and it is likely to backfire.

P. Anderson asked if it would be worth forming an Island Council with the other islands. Steve stated that his suggestion was for all the islands to share in the cost of a lobbyist.

S. Conover stated that this is something we can bring to the next Maine Islands Coalition meeting. She also recommends talking with Nick Batista at the Island Institute.

L. Bruce added that she's heard similar discussions in the past. There are people who have worked on this. It would be good to ask them why these ideas haven't gone through. There's a lot of prior experience that should be tapped to get more detail. Some people to ask would be Steve Miller, Gabe Pendleton, and John King. S. Pendleton will look into this.

SEA LEVEL RISE

Covered in New Business.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT

L. Bruce reported that the site prep is complete for the Health Center building, and the 500' well is completed. Structural concrete footings and foundation walls have been poured. Underground floor slab utilities, plumbing & electrical, have been started. Prefabrication of exterior walls and roof trusses will be starting soon. Installation to begin mid- to late-August. Working with Mark Ouellette on selecting interior and exterior finish for the building. For the Up-Island Public Safety Garage, we've solicited several quotes for a pre-engineered metal building. We've received some good pricing. We're looking for a general contractor to do site work and foundation construction. We might have someone, but it's not confirmed yet. It's anticipated that total cost will be at or below the projected budget.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: July 29th, 5:00pm.
- Harbor Committee: July 18th, 6:30pm.
- SLR Committee: July 23rd, 5:00pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 7/17/24 and Minutes of 7/3/24 Select Board Meeting.

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- Committee Minutes:
 - Harbor Committee minutes of April 18 and May 20 (Special).
 - Energy Committee minutes of June 11
 - School Board minutes of June 25
 - Lighthouse Committee minutes of June 27
- Correspondence

7/16 email from Zach Conover, Chair of the School Board, with the following schedule:

 - July 22 School Board Meeting, Superintendent to present revised budget proposal.
 - July 25 School Board Meeting and Budget Workshop.
 - July 29 Island Meeting/Public Hearing on Proposed 2024-2025 School Budget.
 - August 1 Special Town Meeting to vote on School Budget.

New ferry rates start August 1, 2024: Fee Schedule A. Tina will blast this on Constant Contact.

Copy of 7/15 letter sent to Gov. Mills re. MSFS boat cancellations (along with the other islands)
- Sea Level Rise “Narrows Flooding Adaptation Project” & 2-page Q&A.
- Manager
 - Working on Maine Municipal Bond Bank application due 8/1/24. Brian is helping.
 - Status of Steve’s Town Meeting Survey questions. Melissa sent.
 - Post opening of John King’s seat on the MSFS Advisory Board
 - Set date for Special Select Board Meeting to sign Special TM Warrant.
 - Mackenzie Kersbergen, Senior Project Manager for the Lincolnville Ferry Terminal Project, is asking us to set a date for a Public Meeting on Islesboro. **Thursday, 8/22 6-7 at Town Office.**
- Warrant FY25 #2

CORRESPONDENCE

No other correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

1. None.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Steve Pendleton suggested putting a sign in front of the Town Office for announcing events and important dates. This could be similar to the sign at the ICC.
 - This could augment our electronic communications.

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APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #2

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY25 #2. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

APPOINTMENTS:

None

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: I appreciate your consideration for the Sea Level Rise today, and your questions and comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce: Great discussion. Try to stay cool.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

M. Burns: I would like to take a moment to recognize our island has lost two amazing people who were big on committees. John Gorham worked well with the School Board, and Toby Martin was fundamental with the Energy Committee. I want to recognize their hard work. They will be missed.

S. Pendleton: No comments.

P. Anderson: No comments.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to Adjourn Meeting at 7:14 PM. No Discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary

