

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

APPROVED
9/25/24

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Shey Conover, Vice Chair Lauren Bruce, Melissa Burns, Peter Anderson, and Stephen Pendleton (Zoom)

Others Present:

Fred Porter

Others Present via Zoom:

Elizabeth Hayden, Maggy Willcox, Peter Willcox

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

Minutes of August 28, 2024, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY L. Bruce, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve the minutes of August 28, 2024 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

Peter Willcox reported on talks regarding the winter ferry schedule. Bill Geary reached out for feedback from the Town.

- Peter stated he talked with both captains. One in particular stated that many of the extra trips in last year's winter schedule served only one or two cars; he thought that was a waste of time.
- The biggest question is when to implement the winter schedule. Peter has heard different reactions. Most people think the winter schedule should start no sooner than November.
- S. Conover clarified that in last year's winter schedule, they took away the 10:30 and 2:30, then these runs were brought back on weekdays. Peter stated that it was these runs that were poorly attended later in the season.
- M. Burns stated that there used to be a summer schedule, a fall schedule, and a winter schedule. She asked if we're looking at adopting the fall schedule as the winter schedule. S. Conover replied that it's her understanding that they will have just a regular schedule and a winter schedule.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

- Peter initially thought that perhaps we could leave it up to the captains whether to do a run or not, but the 511-notification system is not fast enough. S. Conover agreed that it would be difficult to plan around if it was done based on how many cars are in line.
- P. Anderson stated that it's unfortunate to have runs with only one vehicle, but if you get used to that run being on the schedule, you might be that one vehicle, and it would be terrible to not get on just because the crew thinks it's a waste of time. As someone who has worked in the service industry, Pete has sat through many dead periods, but you still need to be there. Runs need to go if they are on the schedule. He would be hesitant to support getting rid of the lesser attended runs.
- M. Burns stated that the school would prefer to have the runs, especially the 2:30, for sports, Region 8 kids coming back, and sick children that need to go home.
- Fred Porter stated that if the ambulance has to go over during one of the times that there isn't a run scheduled, they will charge the patient \$1,000 for a special trip.
- S. Pendleton stated that the ferry keeps a log of souls on board. If that's in the data, it would be easy to graph and see when it drops. Running 5 or 6 people doesn't make economic sense. We should look at when the volume decreases. He recommends accessing the usage data to make a determination.
- P. Anderson thinks this is a dangerous game to play. If there happens to be a slow stretch for the 3:00 run in the middle of summer, it would open the door for them to start picking and choosing which runs to drop. We need consistency. He'd rather suffer an unexpected loss of a run in the middle of the day due to an emergency run than see more runs removed from the schedule. S. Pendleton disagrees. From June on, the runs are unquestionable. When the volume drops, we have to think of the crew.
- Fred stated that for emergency trips, they figure the 12-hour rule by the amount of trips they take. If they take away two trips during the day in the off-season, those are hours that aren't counted against the 12-hour rule, and that could buy us an emergency trip at night without being refused.
- Peter added that he believes it's the long-term plan of the ferry service, within the next year or two, to eliminate keeping the boat on Islesboro. This throws emergency runs at night into another light.
- S. Conover stated that when we had this conversation last year, we decided we wanted as much service as possible, understanding that there are economics at play and it is important to have an economically sustainable ferry service. We also recognize that it's difficult to find and retain crew, and that they would like to get inside and warm up during the colder months. To some degree it's the responsibility of the MSFS to determine the best service they can provide us. Last year, it was nice to see the responsiveness in increasing the runs again when we experienced overload. We would like to provide this feedback: we want as much service as possible, and we appreciate how you reacted last year in being responsive to the needs of the community when the boats were very full.
- L. Bruce added that the island will continue to have construction through January.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

- M. Burns asked if they could push to mid-December with the regular schedule. Keep the current schedule until the demand starts dropping, perhaps with a January to March timeframe.
- S. Pendleton suggested we say our best guestimate is minus 10% at max.
- P. Anderson stated there are many Town projects that will require construction transportation. S. Conover added we should let them know that we anticipate that there will be continued large truck traffic and we appreciate them keeping the full schedule as long as is practical.
- Peter Willcox stated that this leaves him with a clear direction for his next conversation with the Ferry Service.

Lincolnville's request for a letter. S. Conover stated the Town received a letter from David Kinney, Town of Lincolnville Administrator, with concerns about the proposed ferry pen changes in Lincolnville.

- They are concerned about the possible encroachment that the proposed charging dolphin may have on access to the south side of the existing town floats.
- S. Conover appreciates their concern; it looks like a tight corner. She would not have a problem with the Board drafting a letter relating our concern that this design would reduce access for private vessels as well as emergency runs.
- Peter Willcox stated the charging dolphin could go anywhere it's needed. What concerns him more about this arrangement is the lack of a useful breakwater on the south side. They have put in a wave breaker on the north side. None of the crew see any use in this. If they want to keep the boat in Lincolnville, a wave breaker on the south side is absolutely necessary.
- The wave screen on the plans is much like the one on Islesboro. It's not sufficient. He's been on the Quicksilver when the ferry was in the pen, and the wake from a passing ship came through the wave screen and the ferry, and rocked the Quicksilver.
- About four years ago Peter asked the former manager of the MSFS if they've considered a breakwater on the south side of the pen in Lincolnville, and he said no. Everyone on the boat thinks that's a mistake. We're looking at about six days in the wintertime when operations are affected by the lack of a breakwater. With the new boat it will be worse.
- S. Conover added that it seemed the design was based on what they thought they could get permitted and not on what is functionally best.
- S. Conover stated that the lack of a good breakwater is a good point that should be included in a letter from Islesboro. It speaks to one of the major problems of the idea of keeping the boat in Lincolnville. It's not a good harbor. It's not best for the boat, and it's not best for the community.
- S. Pendleton stated a north breakwater is immaterial because of the land mass. The gales come in from the south. Peter agrees.
- S. Conover stated we could suggest they move the charging dolphin to the south side so it's away from the town docks, along with the other points.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

- S. Conover will work with Janet and Peter Willcox to draft a letter tomorrow.

SEA LEVEL RISE

S. Conover stated the next SLR Committee meeting will be tomorrow at 5:30.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT

L. Bruce reported that the MBP Committee is meeting with a potential Construction Manager tomorrow morning.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: September 23rd, 5:00pm.
- Sea Level Rise: September 12th, 5:30pm.
- Energy Committee: September 17th, 5:15pm.
- Broadband Committee: September 18th, 4:30pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 9/11/24 and Minutes of 8/28/24 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Results of the Special Town Meeting 9/4/24
- Deer Hunting, 2024-25 Summary of Laws & Rules, State of Maine
- Storm Damage Locations Priority List 9/24
- Correspondence
 - 9/9/24- email from David Kinney, Lincolnville Town Administrator.
 - 9/4/24 Bar Harbor Wealth Management Capital Reserve Statement.
- Warrant FY25 #6

CORRESPONDENCE

Addressed in Ferry Service Update.

S. Conover added that she was copied on a letter from Linda Gillies that the Garden Tour Committee is donating \$3,000 to help with landscaping around the new Health Center. She will make sure they get a proper Thank-You from the Town.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Prioritize Storm Damage Locations
 - S. Conover referred to a priority list of areas needing attention.
 - Fred Porter spoke about Warren Landing and Town Beach. The reason that these areas weren't in the portal sooner, was some of the damage was hidden by snow, or by trees and shrubbery destroyed in the storm. Once it was cleaned up, the damage was clear. We should at least plant some vegetation

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

to help hold it together. We're one storm away from losing the picnic area at Town Beach.

- We have an opportunity to build a project with FEMA and get reimbursed. We've had a site inspection at both places.
- We need to know whether to pull these projects, or go forward. We will have 18 months to get it done, with a possible extension.
- The match requirement is 75/25.
- S. Conover asked if there's a penalty if we don't do the project. We don't know how to fund it yet. Fred stated he will ask the FEMA rep about an extension for making a decision on this.
- S. Conover asked about the other projects in the pipeline and how much money has been committed for the 25% match. Fred stated that the Narrows and the culvert repair on PPR were repaired and will be reimbursed in-kind. The road at Charlotte's Cove will be reimbursed, as well as the Hewes Point seawall repair and the Broadband damage.
- S. Pendleton stated that when we have an opportunity for a 75/25 match for other areas on the island that are experiencing erosion, it seems we should expand the SLR Committee's purview and take advantage of this opportunity. There's no downside to what Fred's proposing. The committee should look at these concerns, evaluate, and build into a bigger sea rise effort.
- P. Anderson believes we should prioritize Town Beach and Warren Landing. We don't have many places in Town to recreate and really enjoy. It would be a shame to let those two go in favor of a repair somewhere else that's used by only a couple of individuals. We could agree to do this and worry about how to pay for it later. We could raise money and get work donated. It could be a community effort, and give people agency over it.
- M. Burns asked if we need to put in an estimated dollar amount. Fred answered that FEMA will look at it if we decide to move forward with it.
- Fred went over the list of priorities and explained what's been done. He will send a report after he speaks with Kristi at FEMA.
- L. Bruce stated that she feels this is important and we should put aside funding.
- Fred offered to have a FEMA rep come and take anyone to the sites.
- S. Conover stated that some people have come to her with concerns about the road near Big Tree Beach.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by L. Bruce, to add these projects and put aside funding. Discussion about a contingency to add Big Tree Beach if approved. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

Steve Miller sent an email stating that Islesboro Islands Trust has interest in Warren Landing, with a conservation easement.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

L. Bruce stated we should revisit getting a plaque recognizing the gift from IIT for Big Tree Beach.

NEW BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #6

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY25 #6. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

APPOINTMENTS:

None

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce: No comments.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

S. Pendleton: No comments.

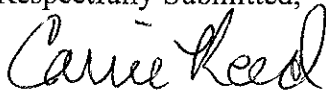
M. Burns: No comments.

P. Anderson: No comments.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to adjourn meeting at 6:54 PM. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

Next meeting we will discuss whether to have a joint meeting with the Lincolnville Select Board.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary