

TOWN OF CASTINE
SELECTBOARD, ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MEETING MINUTES

EDM
PC
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DATE: Monday, June 7, 2021

TIME: 4PM (In-person and ZOOM)

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur, Chair; Peter Vogell & Colin Powell (arrived late), Selectboard members; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; Karen Motycka, Finance Officer and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Helen Miller (ZOOM), Marc Pelletier, Penny Carlhian (ZOOM), Liz Parish, Brooke & Gil Tenney, Phil Freedman, Josh Adam, Sheila Corbett, Judy Fitzsimmons and Eli Forman of the Castine Patriot.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:00PM. Quorum was confirmed with Peter Vogell stating his presence; Colin Powell stating his presence; and Gordon MacArthur stating his presence. Gordon asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: NONE.

Warrants: Gordon asked for a motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations, excise tax collections.

General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$21,272.26; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 2-0.

Water Dept Warrant in the amount of \$14,627.01; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Dept Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Water Dept Warrant approved 2-0.

Minutes: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the May 17, 2021 Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. May 17, 2021 Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving Special Amusement License – Buchanan Family wedding. Peter Vogell made motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Wedding at their Court Street home on Saturday, July 10, 2021. No discussion.

Gordon called for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.
Special Amusement License – Buchanan wedding approved 2-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving appointments to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Town Manager, Shawn Blodgett, addressed and read the list of volunteers to serve (see attached). Peter Vogell made motion to approve the list of appointments. Second by Gordon MacArthur. 7 regular members and 3 alternate members; all 2-year terms, expiring 6/2023. No discussion. Gordon called for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Appointments to the Comprehensive Plan Committee approved 2-0.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report: Shawn Blodgett read his report (see attached).

#2 Street Paving: Sheila Corbett asked about the Main Street bond and if the Town was in a better financial situation to take on more paving projects. Shawn answered saying last year the Town spent around \$107,000 on paving projects and this year expects to spend \$88,000-90,000. The Main Street bond is not done.

#4 LD 1312: Peter Vogell said its pretty bad that the State is going to override local zoning laws. Castine has spent a lot of years with many hardworking volunteers and staff to get a document and the zoning laws that work for Castine. The Town's know their communities.

Discussion. Many present expressed concerns. Shawn suggested writing letters to our State Representatives and State Senators. The Planning Board is also aware and has concerns. A letter from the Town will be sent.

Selectboard member, Colin Powell arrived at 4:17PM.

#5 Columbia University Student Filmmakers: Shawn said that the Selectboard had previously approved the use of the Backshore Beach but there was a date change. They will now be using, with same conditions, the Backshore Beach on June 13th & 14th.

Item 4. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: 1) Letter from Castine Citizens' organizing a shoreline clean-up for June 29th from 9:30AM to noon. Sheila Corbett addressed. They have help from Maine Island Trail Association (MITA). This could turnout to be an annual clean-up effort. The goal is to clean-up the shoreline from Fort Madison to Mayo Point, encourage everyone to be cognizant of trash in our waters and shoreline and to properly dispose of trash. Gordon MacArthur said this effort was a good idea, thanked those organizing and pointed out that they should be aware and respectful to property owners who have water frontage.

2) Letter from UMO student Elizabeth Younce regarding the Coastal Engineering research group at UMO who will be working on an official project designing an intermediate scale prototype

breakwater system to be located offshore near Dyce's Head. The documents submitted is for anyone to review and ask questions or comments. Discussion. The timeframe is August 2021 through November 2021. The concept is a floating type breakwater structure that observes waves with information gathered on how to protect harbors and shorelines.

3) Letter from State Senator, Susan Collins, acknowledging the Town's letter of concern regarding changes in law that could affect the Maine lobster fishing industry and economy. Senator Collins says that they will not be rushing into regulations.

Gordon acknowledged the public present for any requests, questions, or concerns:

1) Phil Freedman asked for the Selectboard to consider replacing the trash receptacle that was once located on Main/Water Street, near the Variety Store. He observes a lot of dog waste ending up in people's yards, gardens, flower boxes, etc. Discussion.

Gordon MacArthur said he thinks the Town needs more trash receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers. He said he will work on solving this issue.

2) Brooke Tenney asked for details on the location for a new Fire Station. Shawn said there are no details to share as the Town has not yet signed a contract with the firm who will do the evaluating.

Shawn said the focus to start are three parcels the Town owns:

- The current Court Street location but upgrade
- Water Dept treatment plant
- Transfer Station due to acreage

The firm we hire will work on feasibility of locations, costs and many other factors. Brooke said she had concerns with the Water Dept treatment plant location and many others present did as well. Shawn said this is one spot to consider since the Town owns the property, but it is premature and may not even be a logical location.

Josh Adam, who lives abutting the Water Dept treatment plant area, expressed his concerns and wanted to know if an area near his property, which he referred to as a "water hookup" was developed and targeted to be a future Fire Station site back in 2011. Peter Vogell said that was not true. Josh also pointed out health risks with a fire station being so close to the Town's water department system and drinking water sources. Sheila Corbett said she wanted the Selectboard to promise that the Castine Water Dept property would not be a location to consider. It is a waste of money for the firm to evaluate as a potential site.

Colin Powell said the Selectboard cannot make promises on a location at this junction. They have to go through all the channels and considerations. It is their job as elected officials. He said if they make promises to one group, then they would be subject to have to make promises to others if they did not like another potential location.

The public will be involved once we get to that stage. The Town is looking for guidance on where to put an adequate fire station. That is the only element we know right now – our

current fire station is inadequate in every way for this community. The firm will do engineering for a suitable location and the costs needed.

3) Liz Parish asked if the Town could please have a 4th of July children's costume parade? There is no Fire Dept participation, therefore, the Town has no one organizing. Liz said it is a big shame not to hold it this year. She said we do not need another car parade. Discussion. Liz requested the Selectboard give their blessing if volunteers organize a children's costume parade? Helen Miller expressed concerns about children not being vaccinated. She said the Town should get input from Dr. Marjorie Olivari. The Selectboard all agreed they would not give their blessing as they feel we still have to operate with caution. Shawn Blodgett reviewed CDC guidelines.

4) Marc Pelletier asked about the Town's noise ordinance and complained about the music playing this past Sunday at Otter's Waterfront Eatery. He and his wife could clearly hear it from their house on Green Street. Shouldn't the Town restrict amplification? Shawn Blodgett pointed out that Castine does not have a noise ordinance. The information Marc referred to is a noise standard performance within the Town's Zoning Ordinance. Gordon MacArthur said they would look into the matter. It might not be resolved but they would look into it.

Past Actions: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Monday, 6/21/21 at 4PM (In-Person & ZOOM) - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Wednesday, 6/16/2021 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM), if needed.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to adjourn. Second by Peter Vogell.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to adjourn. Colin stated yes to adjourn. Gordon stated yes to adjourn. Approved 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: June 07, 2021
Re: Town Manager Report

1. Castine Comprehensive Plan. As the Castine Comprehensive Plan Committee has now been appointed, we will work with the Committee to establish dates and times for a series of kick off meetings before we begin our work with the Hancock County Planning Commission. The HCPC sent Castine a contract today with the proposed contract start date of the 01st of July. I will request that the Selectboard approve this contract at the next meeting. Subject to the Comprehensive Plan Committee's availability, I expect that the first committee meeting with the HCPC will take place between July 6 and 9.

2. 2021 Street Paving. The bidding period for Latour Street closed today and the Town of Castine received responses from 8 paving firms with 7 bids received. One firm who responded declined to bid due to their lack of availability this season. I will contact the winning bidder shortly to get the work scheduled for the near future and a tally sheet for this project will be posted on the town website. The Town of Castine is also currently advertising for paving work on Water Street. The bid period for the Water Street project will end June 22d at 2:00 PM.

3. Castine Recycling. Since Coastal Resources of Maine or Fiberight closed, Castine's recycling has been going to Penobscot Energy Recovery Company or PERC. PERC will be shutting down due to maintenance starting today and will not be accepting Municipal Solid Waste through June 24th. It is a good assumption that there may be residual backlogs of MSW even after PERC resumes full operations because they were experiencing a backlog of MSW before they shut down. At this point, Castine has two options for our recycling. We can either execute a bypass and send our recycling to the landfill at Juniper Ridge in Old Town or reroute our recycling to the Casella facility at an increased cost. With the short duration nature of the PERC shutdown and the near term increased cost being between \$500 - \$1000, we intend to reroute



Castine's recycling for this period to Casella. However, if PERC stays shuttered for a longer period than is expected, we will re-assess.

4. LD 1312. On June 1st, Castine received a notice from the Maine Municipal Association that the subject line bill had passed unanimously out of the Labor and Housing Committee in Augusta. The Bill is titled "An Act to Remove Barriers to Accessory Dwelling Units and Allow Accessory Dwelling Units where Single-family Houses are Allowed." This bill preempts home rule authority and specifically will prohibit municipalities from the following:

- a) from requiring setbacks of greater than 5 feet from a property line for newly constructed ADUs. Castine's current setback requirements for new construction are either 10, 15, 20, or 30 feet depending on the location in town.
- b) from requiring new or additional off-street parking spaces for ADUs. Castine currently requires some ADU conversion to provide parking.
- c) from denying the conversion of a structure into an ADU when the primary structure is located on a non-conforming lot. Castine requires a larger lot size if converting a home into a multi-family dwelling.
- d) According to Maine Municipal, since this bill received unanimous support in committee, it will be presented to the entire Legislature on a consent agenda and likely enacted without the benefit of debate.

5. Columbia University Student Filmmakers. As previously discussed with the Selectboard, a group of Columbia University filmmakers will be in town filming a moving entitled "Downeast" on June 13th and 14th. On Sunday the 13th, they will be filming without heavy equipment from 6 AM to 9 AM. On Monday, June 14th, they will be filming with a local excavator on the beach from 9 AM to 3 PM. They have hired Fred Motycka to provide the excavator for the scene. Both the filmmakers and Mr. Motycka have insurance paperwork on file with the town and the filmmakers understand that beach users have primacy to the space and any damage done to the beach must be fixed by them. I request that the Selectboard approve the use of this town space for this film.

6 Other Items of Note. -The Selectboard approved Adams School science project rocket launch will take place tomorrow afternoon at Fort George.
-The lighthouse tower stair rust abatement project is continuing but should wrap up very soon. A second new window has been installed on the tower which now provides two good working windows on either side of the tower to enable us to habitually air the tower out and inhibit interior rust buildup in the future.