

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

GM  
PV  
CP

DATE: Monday, August 16, 2021  
TIME: 4PM (In-person and ZOOM)  
PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur, Chair; Peter Vogell & Colin Powell, Selectboard members; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Helen Miller, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Liz Parish, Brooke & Gil Tenney, Gus Basile, Tom Comiciotto, Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Bill Lyons, Peter Davis, Josh Adam, Tom Gutow, Scott Vogell, Kip Oberting, Kevin Coady, Jim Shanley, Paul Ferreira, and David Avery 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: NONE (Finance Officer, Karen Motycka out on vacation).

Minutes: Peter Vogell made motion to approve the August 2, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

August 2, 2021, Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Colin Powell made motion to approve the August 10, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

August 10, 2021, Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the August 11, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve.

August 11, 2021, Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving appointment to the Planning Board. Colin Powell made motion to appoint James Bernard to the Planning Board as alternate member, 1-year term, expiring 6/2022. Second by Peter Vogell. No discussion.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Appointment to the Planning Board approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager read his report (see attached).

Shawn added update from the Tree Committee that 10 trees have been inoculated which helps prevent Dutch Elm Disease.

Gordon MacArthur asked if there were any questions regarding the Town Manager's Report:

-Brooke Tenney asked who and when met recently referring to the Friends of the Fortifications group and Castine History Partners. Shawn said it was Jimmy Goodson and Lisa Lutts and they met this past Wedn 8/11/21.

Item 3. Other Business as Required: NONE.

**Communications:** -letter from resident Arnold Berleant (Gordon read the letter) regarding the possibility of a new Fire Station. Arnold's letter offered support, suggestions and help with the designing stage when it comes to that stage.

-letter from Goody-B Wiseman requesting to block off section of Water St/Pleasant St on August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-8PM to sponsor a fundraising event outdoors rather than inside because of the recent COVID19 developments.

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

Peter said one lane must stay open to allow for emergency vehicles to travel if needed.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Block off road request approved 3-0.

-Save the Date memo from Janet Acker for MMA's Convocation on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2PM, location TBA (Fieldhouse or Athletic Field).

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

**1)** Gus Basile brought up the recent Special Town Mtg (8/10/21), the Fire Dept feasibility study and the need for an off-neck Fire Station. He told of a personal experience with a fire call at Wilson Point Rd a few years back which is how the idea for a Fire Station off-neck came about. Gus referred to several pages of the Feasibility Study which he said was one-sided. He said the Town needs better fire protection for off-neck. Discussion.

Shawn said the Transfer Station was still a consideration as a location and was going to be part of the Impact Study. Shawn clarified some points that Gus brought up.

**2)** Josh Adam said he had a few questions resulting from the 8/10/21 Special Town Mtg. He asked why the intended use to build a new fire station was not part of the warrant article posted for the Special Town Mtg and if the land cannot be used for a new fire station what



stops the Town to use it for a different purpose?

Shawn said the warrant article was reviewed by legal. Gordon said if the land cannot be used for a new fire station it will likely get sold; whatever the Town wants.

Josh said that PFA fire foam is a forever chemical and there are concerns this foam was used at the Water District or on property nearby for training purposes. Josh said there is a test for \$200 that can be done to see if this chemical is in the water. Gordon MacArthur said he saw no reason why the test to detect PFA couldn't be done. Tom Gutow said that the Fire Dept has not used the PFA foam chemical for 10-12 years. Tom said that in the 25 years he has been on the Dept, the fire foam was only used during training on a single car fire at the Transfer Station, at the Lighthouse fire and at a structure fire they assisted in Penobscot. The Water District/Reservoir was never a location fire foam was used.

Josh also asked about the Town's tax map that was incorrectly published in the Castine Patriot. Gordon said the Town is not responsible for what the Patriot publishes.

**3)** Gil Tenney asked if there could be an outline for the process regarding the Battle Ave land purchase and proposed new Fire Station going forward. Gil said it would be helpful and said he is not clear if MMA has been engaged with this topic. Shawn said an outline showing the process is an excellent idea; he said the site evaluation will be first then we can work on an outline.

**4)** Liz Parish asked when the Battle Ave land closing date was set for. Shawn answered, no later than 9/15/21.

**5)** Kip Oberting said if the water at the Water District could be tested for PFA that would be great, but PFA exposure can be from turnout gear as well. He also asked if the Battle Ave land Purchase & Sales Agreement was a public document. Shawn answered, yes, he thought so.

**6)** Brooke Tenney went back to MMA and if the Town has been discussing the Fire Station topic with them. Shawn said he has had conversations with President, Bill Brennan, but no specifics and has not received final feedback from MMA. We cannot expect MMA to solve this problem and leave it to them to find a location within their campus to build a new Fire Station.

Gordon said the Feasibility Study recommends 2 acres as a suitable lot to build a new Fire Station and MMA does not have 2 acres.

Discussion.

The Feasibility Study is a report of an evaluation and recommendations.

Gus Basile said at the May 2016 Town Mtg, Pederick Sweet made motion to approve a fire substation off-neck to be located at the Transfer Station. Town Clerk, Susan Macomber, clarified saying that Finance Officer, Karen Motycka had already clarified and even read the May 2016 warrant article and minutes out loud to those present at the 8/10/21 Special Town Mtg. The article that Gus Basile refers to is for Reserve Accounts. \$10,000 was allocated for a Fire Rescue Building which was one of six other Reserve Items. A possible off-neck substation

was mentioned as a possibility within discussion, but it was not the motion or the approval for that article.

Colin Powell pointed out that one of the issues when researched a few years back with the possibility of an off-neck substation was the maintenance of several fire buildings. It is very involved, but no doors are shut right now. He said the Selectboard, Fire Dept and Town Manager are investigating all options as best they can.

Kevin Coady asked what would happen to the old Fire House. Gordon said it would likely go on the market for sale or whatever the Town wants.

7) Tom Comiciotto asked if the Town garage at the Transfer Station is utilized to it's fullest. Shawn said it is not suitable for a Fire Station or to house a Fire truck. There is no running water, no septic system, would need new electric service, etc. Tom said he did not realize that.

8) Bill Lyons said he wanted to be clear that he understood the Transfer Station is being considered as a possible location for new Fire Station. Gordon answered, yes.

9) Scott Vogell said the Town may want to double check with legal before making the Battle Ave land Purchase & Sale Agreement public. He said he did not think it was allowed.

**Past Actions:** NONE.

**Selectboard Comments:** NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Tues, 9/7/21 at 4PM (In-Person & ZOOM) – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg (due to the Labor Day Holiday).

Wedn, 8/18/21 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM), if needed.

Mon, 9/20/21 at 4PM (In-Person & ZOOM) – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Colin Powell 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 5:20PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.





## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: August 16, 2021  
Re: Town Manager Report

1. COVID Update. Over the weekend, Hancock County was designated in the “Substantial” category for COVID community transmission. The State of Maine’s guidance/recommendations for counties in the “substantial” or “high” categories are as follows:

- All people, regardless of vaccination status, wear face coverings in indoor, public settings in areas with “substantial” or “high” levels of community transmission.
- All teachers, staff, and students in K-12 schools wear face coverings, regardless of vaccination status or community transmission levels.

As of yesterday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, Hancock County had a daily positivity rate of 5.6% which is up from the 2-3% rate in late June and early July. We continue to urge all Castine residents to take care of themselves and others through vaccination, mask wearing where appropriate, to maintain social distancing and by washing your hands often.

2. Infrastructure and Maintenance Update. A first round of ditch and shoulder maintenance has been completed around town. We are in the developmental stages of the next round of ditch maintenance but included in this will be a fix to the stormwater drainage issue at the bottom of Wadsworth Cove and maintenance in the vicinity of the North side of Perkins around 79 Perkins. I encourage anyone who is experiencing inadequate stormwater

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### Town of Castine Municipal Offices

P.O. Box 204 • 67 Court Street • Castine, Maine 04421-0204

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drainage issues on a Castine maintained street to contact me and I will come out and look to see if the town can help with the situation.

The Water Street paving project was completed on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Remaining paving projects to be done this season are the completion of Madockawando, the refurbishment of stormwater catch basin on the southwest side of Water Street down from the Pleasant/Perkins intersection and the culvert refurbishment at the top of State Street at the Route 166 intersection.

Castine Public Works have continued with cutting back encroaching tree limbs and undergrowth throughout town and on Friday of last week, the contractor who mows the entire town's road shoulders completed this task before we head into the fall.

Finally, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, a new roof was installed on the "windmill" building at the Battle Avenue Water Treatment facility.

3. Stormwater Drainage Issues at 188 Perkins Street. As discussed at the last Selectboard meeting, the ineffective stormwater system in the vicinity of 188 Perkins Street continues to be a problem. At the last meeting, I asked for a purchasing policy waiver of \$14,000 to enter a contract with Olver Associates for the design work for this much needed project. However, after receiving the contract, Olver Associates portion of the entire \$256 thousand dollar estimated cost totals an additional \$25,000 for project management, quality control and site inspections during the construction phase. For the same reasons as stated last meeting, I request that the policy waiver be expanded to cover this cost as well. The remaining 217 thousand dollars of this project will be competitively bid.

4. Fort George Historic Properties Management Plan. We have received a final draft of the Historic Properties Management Plan from the firm that the town contracted to develop it. After meeting with representatives from the Friends of the Fortifications and Castine History Partners, we collectively felt that the product that we received met the contractual obligations of the firm. I have





provided a copy of the HPMP to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review and once I receive input from them, I will close out the Certified Local Government Grant which funded just over 50% of this project. The next step will be to reconvene a meeting with stakeholders to develop a strategic plan for this property using the HPMP as a baseline. We hope to have this meeting in late September to early October.

5. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Disposal Program. The Town of Castine is still looking for two interested volunteers to aid in the Hancock County Planning Commissions HHW Disposal Day on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. This event will take place at the Ellsworth High School. Anyone with HHW may see us at Emerson Hall for a permit which will be underwritten by the town. If you do not have a permit, the cost will be \$45.00 to dispose of up to 10 gallons of HHW. Examples of HHW are below:

- Turpentine/Varnish
- Brake Fluid/Transmission Fluid
- Pool Chemicals
- Adhesives/Solids
- Pesticides/Fungicides/Herbicides
- Waste Automobile Oil/Gasoline
- Nail Polish Remover

6. Unauthorized Dumping of Garbage on the Town Dock. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, we had another 10 bags of trash appear at the town dock parking lot with no payment or coordination. As the Selectboard knows, this is the second large scale occurrence of this in the past year. In the very near future, I will be exploring a security camera option for this area.

7. Property Purchase on Battle Avenue- Tax Map 20, Lot 8A. Following the vote by the town in the affirmative to purchase the aforementioned 5.5 acre lot, earnest money in the amount of \$10,000 has been sent.