

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

PV  
GM  
CP

DATE: Tuesday, September 7, 2021

TIME: 4PM (In-person)

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Helen Miller, Liz Parish, Brooke & Gil Tenney, Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Josh Adam, David Adams and Scott Vogell.

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 \$482,438.87; 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. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Water Dept Warrant in the amount of \$159,808.16; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Dept Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Colin Powell.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Water Dept Warrant approved 3-0.

Town Warrant in the amount of \$390,000 for the Battle Ave land purchase; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Town Warrant in the amount stated. Second by Peter Vogell.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Town Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Colin Powell made motion to approve the July 6, 2021, Public Hearing 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. July 6, 2021, Public Hearing minutes approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the August 16, 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 16, 2021, Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the August 26, 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 26, 2021, Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving appointments to various Castine Boards/Committees.

Peter Vogell made motion to appoint Marc Pelletier (3-yr term, expires 6/2024) and Brooke Tenney (Alt, 1-yr term, expires 6/2022) to the Historic Preservation Commission. 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. Appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to appoint Theresa Kudlak (3-yr term, expires 6/2024) to the Tree Committee. 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. Appointment to the Tree Committee approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to appoint Ann Robinson (5-yr term, expires 6/2026) to the Board of Appeals. 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. Appointment to the Board of Appeals approved 3-0.

The Selectboard received two interests for serving as an Alternate member on the Harbor Committee. The Selectboard decided to send to the Harbor Committee for their input and recommendation.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced the sidewalk presentation.

Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, discussed a slide show presentation outlining sidewalk network, history, projected costs for snow removal, projected equipment needed for snow removal and options.

Discussion.

Liz Parish said she did not see why funds could not be taken from Contingency for sidewalk snow removal. She said forming a Sidewalk Committee should be a separate matter.

Bobby Vagt expressed his concern that this needs to be dealt with now. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year talking about it. Bobby felt that we need to concentrate on the health & safety measures for our sidewalks just as we do for our roads.

Peter Vogell said the Selectboard and Town staff do everything possible to keep taxes low. Every new service increases taxes. How much can this little Town afford? We need to keep our



small-town aspect. It costs \$78,000 for snowplowing our roads last year.

Bobby Vagt said he had all respect to those who are watching the Town funds, but he respectfully asked that this issue be given serious consideration and dealt with now.

Colin Powell said he could not see snow removal on sidewalks being implemented for this upcoming season. We need to try a few things first and experiment with different options. Discussion regarding outlines for appointing a possible Sidewalk Committee.

Scott Vogell suggested the Town, as a trial run, require property owners be responsible for clearing sidewalks in front of their properties. The Town could buy calcium chloride for property owners to put down on the sidewalks.

Helen Miller suggested the Town hire someone to do the snow removal for this season and see how it goes. They could then report to the Committee and iron out anything that surfaces.

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

September 11<sup>th</sup> Lighthouse Days: The Town Office was recently asked by the American Lighthouse Foundation if Castine would participate in Maine Lighthouse Days.

Peter Vogell suggested no participation this year since COVID continues and cases are on the rise in Maine and all around. Maine & the Nation are not trending in the right direction right now to allow.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to decline Lighthouse Days participation this year. Second by Colin Powell. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to decline. Colin stated yes to decline. Gordon stated yes to decline. Declining Lighthouse Days participation approved 3-0.

Item 4. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: -wedding request for the Backshore Beach on Sept 26, 2021, at 2PM, just the ceremony with approximately 20-25 guests attending. Peter Vogell made motion to approve. 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. Backshore Beach wedding request approved 3-0.

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

1) Brooke Tenney commented that there was a long discussion regarding sidewalks but no action. She asked what will happen from here.

The Town will advertise for volunteers with aim to appoint a Sidewalk Committee at the next Selectboard Mtg, Mon 9/20<sup>th</sup>. A charter will be drawn up to outline the Committee's

responsibilities and items for them to work on. The Committee can meet with a goal to report to the Selectboard by the end of October.

2) Josh Adam asked if the Town had found out from their attorney if the Purchase & Sales Agreement (P&S) for the Battle Ave land purchase can be made available to the public. Shawn has not found out yet.

3) Gil Tenney reviewed a proposed idea including measurements and suggestions for keeping the Fire Station at its current location and to “add on” using Academy property across the street. Gil said he does not understand why it could not work. Shawn responded saying it has never been said that it could not work but we just do not know yet. We have a “must have” list and a “nice to have” list and need to figure out the best location. We also need to wait and find out what the Environmental Impact reports came back showing. Gil asked that when it comes time for design and making other decisions if the Town would invite the community to participate by submitting their ideas, drawings, etc.

4) Josh Adam asked if Phase II for the Fire Station Study been done. Shawn said we do not have a signed contract yet for Phase II. We do not even have an outline to incorporate into Phase II. To date we are only committed to the Environmental Analysis which has started on three locations (Court St current spot, Battle Ave land and the Transfer Station).

5) David Adams thanked the Selectboard for the letter sent helping the Canadian filmmakers to cross the border and get to Castine. There will be three arriving by Friday (9/10) and seven arriving next Mon or Tues. The Town will likely see these filmmakers around Town. It looks like they may get onto the Bowdoin as well.

**Past Actions:** NONE.

**Selectboard Comments:** NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Wedn, 9/15/21 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM), if needed.

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

Peter Vogell made motion to adjourn. Second by Colin Powell.

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 5:45PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.





**MEMORANDUM**

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

1. COVID Update. Hancock County has been designated in a “High” category for community transmission along with all but two of the rest of Maine counties. The impact on Castine will be that mask wearing is now recommended in the following instances:

- 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>, Maine had a daily positivity rate of 7.4% which is up from the 5.6% rate from my last report in mid-August. 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. The next round of ditch maintenance will begin at the end of this week or early next week. This project will be to clear the ditches and replace a culvert in the vicinity of 79 Perkins Street on the North side of the road. This project will culminate at Latour Street.



Weather and scheduling dependent, the next round of paving will begin in the second half of September with the following priority for projects:

- Patching a break in the pavement from a water main break on Perkins Street that occurred last year.

- Finishing the new overlay on Madockawando

- Fixing the frost heave bump at the top of State Street

3. Fuse Switch Out for LED Streetlights. When Castine purchased its streetlights from Central Maine Power (CMP) our rental and electric costs were reduced dramatically. However, the factory specified internal fuses to the new lights are not robust enough for a very humid or foggy environment. This has resulted in lights randomly malfunctioning around town – 13 lights of 76 total have so far malfunctioned. Added to the planning problem is that only CMP approved contractors can work on their utility poles which limits Castine's choice of vendors. To remedy this nagging problem, Castine will have a CMP approved vendor in town on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>d</sup> of this month to switch out the inadequate fuses for a more robust model on the remaining 66 of Castine streetlights.

4. Battle Avenue Property Purchase Tax Map 20 Lot 8A. The closing date for the purchase of this property has been set for Friday, 10 September.

5. Canadian Documentary Filmmakers. Border crossing permitting, the N12 production team expects to be in and around Castine from 09 September through the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month filming for their documentary on the Baron Castine. I have provided a letter to David Adams in support of this group's border crossing.

6. September 11 Lighthouse Days. Recently, I was informed by the American Lighthouse Foundation that Maine Lighthouse Days will take place on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM. The rust mitigation project at the



lighthouse tower will be completed in time for us to participate. However, with COVID making a comeback and our inability to socially distance inside the tower, I request guidance from the Selectboard on whether to participate.

7. Woodchipping of the brush pile at the transfer station. We have been in contact with the vendor who grinds up the brush pile at the transfer station. I expect to see him in the Fall after the ground freezes sufficiently for him to move his equipment in to conduct the work.

8. PFAS Testing of Castine Water. Following a request at a Selectboard meeting, we have ordered and received a PFAS test. The test was run and sent to the lab today, September 07<sup>th</sup>. As this is a new test, we do not know how long it will take for Castine to receive the results.

9. Snow Removal from Castine Sidewalks. See attached presentation.