

G.A.M.  
PC

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

DATE: Monday, September 20, 2021  
TIME: 4PM (In-person)  
PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Liz Parish, Brooke & Gil Tenney, Bobby Vagt, Marc Pelletier, Gus Basile, David Modesett, Gunilla Kettis 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: 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 \$177,145.08; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount stated. 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. General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Water Dept Warrant in the amount of \$7,250.41; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Dept Warrant in the amount stated. 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. Water Dept Warrant approved 3-0.

Abatement: Peter Vogell made motion to approve an abatement in the amount of \$225.72 to Peter & Elizabeth Lewis. Second by Colin Powell.

Peter & Elizabeth Lewis own a tiny house which was on property they leased from Doug Koos. While living there, they were taxed for building only. Last year they purchased property and moved the tiny house to that property. The Assessor's Agent assessed the new property and included the tiny house; however, the tiny house did not get deleted as a building only tax bill resulting in the Lewis' being taxed twice on the tiny house. No discussion.

Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Abatement to Peter & Elizabeth Lewis approved 3-0.

Minutes: Colin Powell made motion to approve the September 7, 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. September 7, 2021, Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Peter Vogell made motion to approve the September 8, 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 abstained as he was not present at the mtg. September 8, 2021, Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

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

Colin Powell made motion to appoint Diana Bernard (Alternate member, 1-yr term, expires 6/2022) to the Historic Preservation Commission. Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to appoint Amelia Griffith (Alternate member, 1-yr term, expires 6/2022) to the Harbor 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 Harbor Committee approved 3-0.

Colin Powell made motion to appoint Donald Tenney as Tree Warden (3-yr term, expires 6/2024). Second by Gordon MacArthur. No discussion. Gordon asked for votes: Peter stated yes to approve. Colin stated yes to approve. Gordon stated yes to approve. Tree Warden appointment approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced possible appointments to a Sidewalk Committee. Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager, updated. Currently, there are two (2) volunteers: Marc Pelletier and Bobby Vagt. Gus Basile, who was present at the Mtg, said he was willing to serve. Discussion.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving the Arbor Day Proclamation. 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. Arbor Day Proclamation approved 3-0.

Item 4. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager read his report (see attached).

Security Camera at the Town Dock: It was mentioned that there were about six (6) bags of trash piled high near the gazebo on the Town Dock that morning. Shawn said he did not know about

the pile left this morning. Marc Pelletier said he is at the Town Dock early most mornings and he witnesses a certain boat from a certain Island leaving trash with stickers on them at the Town Dock every Monday morning. It is the hope that having a security camera will help dissuade those who have been dumping trash bags at the Town Dock.

Item 4. Other Business as Required: NONE.

**Communications:** NONE.

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

**1)** Gus Basile said he volunteered to serve on the Sidewalk Committee but not sure what is involved. Gordon MacArthur briefly reviewed. Shawn Blodgett told Gus he would give him a copy of the Sidewalk Committee Charter. It is posted online as well.

Discussion. Since there were only two (2) volunteers and now three (3) with Gus Basile, Marc Pelletier asked how many members the Selectboard wanted and what is the cutoff date?

Gordon MacArthur said we need at least five (5) members but preferably seven (7). Peter Vogell and Colin Powell both agreed. The cutoff date will be the end of the month (Sept 30<sup>th</sup>).

The Sidewalk Committee Charter outlines short-term and long-term goals for the Committee to work on; in the near term, it is to examine the feasibility and cost of removing snow from sidewalks by any of several options, including by public works, by private vendor, or by property owners; the longer-term objective is to conduct a holistic analysis of the sidewalk network, with emphasis on which portions should be abandoned. A report will be due by April 2022.

**2)** Bobby Vagt asked if a sign at top of State Street can be installed indicating "children crossing" to drivers. He expressed concern for the youngsters' safety because they are sometimes walking along State Street or crossing the road. He even offered to pay for the signage. The Selectboard thanked Bobby for his offer, but Shawn said he would take a look. Gunilla Kettis suggested having a painted crosswalk in that area at top of State Street as well. She said she observes vehicles taking that sharp turn going way too fast and may not see pedestrians. Painted lines and crosswalks are a spring project. The Town can consider a crosswalk in that area then.

**3)** Marc Pelletier asked about progress for the new Fire Station and Battle Ave land purchase. He suggested the Town hire a Project Manager for the design and construction of the new Fire Station to oversee the project, rather than just rely on an architectural firm. Shawn Blodgett said the next steps involve phase 2 planning by Port City Architecture for the site of the current Fire Station and the Transfer Station site and Phase 1 is needed for the recently acquired Battle Avenue site. Then we can develop a more methodical way forward. Discussion.

**4)** Liz Parish asked for clarification on dates regarding the Battle Avenue Land Purchase & Sales Agreement. On August 10<sup>th</sup> the Town voted to enter into a Purchase & Sales Agreement with

the seller but on August 2<sup>nd</sup> the Town signed a Purchase & Sales Agreement. Liz said she is trying to understand the process, but it seems as though the voters could have been misinformed. She said the clause about the contract being null and void if the voters opposed of the purchase cannot be found in the paperwork. Shawn said the signed agreement does, in fact, include a contingency that reflected the Town vote and if voters opposed the purchase, the contract would become null and void.

Gordon MacArthur read the August 10<sup>th</sup> warrant article. Shawn got a copy of the Purchase & Sales Agreement and clarified. He read item #22 Other Conditions (in BOLD print): **"This contract is conditioned upon the Purchaser receiving approval by town vote to purchase the property on August 10, 2021. If the Purchaser does not receive town approval for the purchase, this contract will become null and void"**.

**Past Actions:** NONE.

**Selectboard Comments:** NONE.

Upcoming Mtgs:

9/28/21 at 2pm – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Mon, 10/4/21 at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Mon, 10/18/21 at 4PM – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg.

Wedn, 10/20/21 at 8AM - T/G Mtg (ZOOM), if needed.

NO SEPTEMBER T/G MTG. NO AGENDA ITEMS.

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 4:48PM.

Minutes by Susan M Macomber, Town Clerk.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: September 20, 2021  
Re: Town Manager Report

1. COVID Update. Hancock County remains in the “High” category for community transmission along with all but one county in the rest of Maine. Mask wearing continues to be recommended for everyone by the State of Maine CDC.

As of yesterday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, Maine had a daily positivity rate of 8.7% which is an increase from my last report but has begun to trend down again over the last few days.

2. Infrastructure and Maintenance and Operations Update. We have completed ditch maintenance and culvert replacement in the vicinity of the North side of 79 Perkins Street. Other than the yearly weed trimming and catch basin clean out, we are complete with ditch maintenance for the year as the last project we were going to undertake this season will require greater coordination and is not shovel ready. However, if any Castine resident notices a problem with the ditch network, contact town hall.

The final paving projects for the season will begin next week in the following order of priority:

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

- Finishing the new overlay on Madockawando Road.

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



-Castine Public Works will begin re-roofing and refurbishing the salt shed building at the transfer station this Wednesday. Our hope is to have the salt shed building project completed before the town dock floats begin to come out on 01 October.

-The floats will be taken out of the water in a staggered fashion this year. Three floats will come out of the water on October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow Castine Public Works to refurbish these three before they are put away for the winter. The public works department re-built the Acadia Dock floats in the spring of this year, but we found that the timing didn't work very well with the uptick in spring work to get the town ready to receive visitors. We are going to try this next round of float refurbishment in the fall, and we will hopefully be complete before the leaves fall so that public works can get the ditches and catch basins ready before winter. The rest of the floats will be reconfigured and remain in the water until the 01<sup>st</sup> of November so that we can continue to keep a reduced size but working dock until November. Residents should expect a reduction in 1 hour parking spaces during the time required for the float refurbishment work. Another impact of pulling the floats in the fall will be a reduction in dinghy space at the town dock as the dinghy basin is currently full. We are asking any Castine resident that feels that they will no longer need their dinghy this season to remove it before 01 October. Lastly, the town dock boat ramp will be pressure washed next Tuesday or Wednesday.

-The streetlight fuse switch out operation has been re-scheduled until the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of this month.

3. Island Name Change Committee (INCC) Update. The members of the Island Name Change Committee are currently compiling their final report to the Selectboard. To be ready for a town vote on November 02d, I request that the Selectboard hold an out of cycle meeting between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of this month so that the Selectboard can meet with the Chair of the INCC and finalize the warrant for the 02d of November.



4. Security Camera at the Town Dock. Following some complaints and a spate of unauthorized trash dumping in the vicinity of the dock parking lot, I have researched the cost of installing a security camera for the facility. The cost will be between \$1500-2000 and our hope is to also use this color camera as a “current conditions” feed onto the Castine Merchants Association Visit Castine web page.