

GBM  
CP  
RIB

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

DATE: Wednesday, July 5, 2023

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Kirk Langford, Tony Politano, Helen Miller, Scott Vogell, Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Tom Comiciotto, Gus Basile, Bob Friedlander, Bill Buchanan, Josh Adam, and Mac & Peg Patterson.

Zoom: Mary Kneisel.

Colin Powell opened the meeting at 4PM. Colin Powell verified that there was a quorum.

Colin asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: None.

Colin Powell asked for a motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations and excise tax collections; Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$143,114.13. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Roberta pointed out that this warrant covers 51 bills paying electric bills, fireworks, ambulance, cemetery, etc. With no other discussion, Colin asked for votes:

General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$3,184.04.

Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes:

Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the June 20, 2023, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes:

6/20/23 Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the June 22, 2023, Selectboard Mtg minutes.

Second by Colin Powell. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes:

6/22/23 Mtg minutes approved 2-0 (Roberta Boczkiewicz abstained due to absence).

Colin Powell made motion to approve the June 30, 2023, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes:

6/30/23 Mtg minutes approved 2-0 (Gordon MacArthur abstained due to absence).

Item 1. Colin Powell introduced approving License for an Incorporated Civic Organization from the Division of Liquor Licensing & Enforcement – Castine Scientific Society dba Wilson Museum. Colin Powell made motion to approve. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz.

Julia Gray, Wilson Museum Director was present.

With no discussion, Colin asked for votes: Incorporated Civic Organization Liquor License approved 3-0.

Item 2. Colin Powell introduced updates from Board/Committee Chairs or Members present; 1) Utility Board and 2) Bicentennial Committee.

1) Kirk Langford, Utility Board Chair, addressed and gave updates.

Utility Board oversees three Ordinances: Sewer, Source Water Protection & Water Service Protection and recommends budgets for both Water/Sewer Departments to the Selectboard. Both facilities are working well but the Board is keeping an eye on new laws going in effect which can reflect upon Castine utility departments.

PFAS has been a hot topic for many. Castine is monitoring closely. Effluent, and Influent is being tested regularly to collect data.

Utility Board, especially Kirk as the Chair has been involved with Comprehensive Plan chapters that affect utilities for future planning for the Town.

The Utility Board is working on updating the Source Water Protection Ordinance. Utility Board will bring their recommendations to the Selectboard which will then go to the Town voters for approval. They are working on tightening up Spring Street well regulations due to a few misunderstandings within that area.

The Utility Board also wants to revise the Source Water Protection Pesticide application adding a section for contractors and their level of responsibility.

The Selectboard thanked Kirk for the updates.

2) Colin Powell, Bicentennial Chair, addressed and gave updates (report attached).

Due to the pandemic celebrating the State of Maine's Bicentennial and Maine's unique position in the Women's Suffrage movement had to be postponed. The Bicentennial Planning Committee held hope that once large public gatherings were deemed safe the celebration could happen. Now four years later, the interest in a celebration with a tall ship and guest speakers has died down and the economic issues have set in as most of the costs of that type of celebration has only become more expensive. Given these observations, the Bicentennial Committee voted to pivot the use of the donated funds towards creating a permanent nature trail to be called the Castine Bicentennial Trail, with a recommended path leading from the backside of the Backshore Saltwater Pond, along the Southern side of the British Canal, and ending at the existing trail under the British Canal Sign. The Bicentennial Committee also recommends this work be turned over to the Town's Recreation Committee, with the Chair of the Bicentennial Committee serving as an Ex Officio member on the REC Committee to help

with the project transition. Also, to note, an all-volunteer group of citizens has already done a lot of exploratory work regarding a nature trail in that area which can assist and make easier. The Bicentennial Committee recommends a plaque recognizing the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Maine Statehood be on the trail and an additional plaque commemorating Maine's role in the Women's Suffrage movement 100 years later.

Approval of the recommendation should conclude the business of the Bicentennial Committee.  
Discussion.

Helen Miller expressed her disappointment with how things were handled during the last four years. She asked about the deposit from Oliver Perry Tall Ship. Bobby Vagt, Bicentennial Committee member, said the deposit was non-refundable. Helen said she knows the Treasurer of the Oliver Perry and was given different information. Helen said she wished to recognize four key donors to Castine's Bicentennial Celebration who now have passed away and who in the last months of their lives were asking about status regarding their donations: Bambi Hatch, Sara Cox, Peter Blatchford, and Jane Davis Dougus.

The Selectboard members Gordon and Roberta thanked Colin for the updates.

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

Item 4. Other Business as Required = NONE.

**Communications:** -Request from Tony Politano to block off 1 to 1 ½ parking spaces in front of Mary Margaret Mercantile/Analog Attic for a 5-year open for business anniversary party. The event will take place on Saturday, 8/5. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve request. Second by Colin Powell. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes: Request from Tony Politano approved 3-0.

-Request from Jeff Wright, MMA Director of Office of Alumni Relations, asking permission to block of Pleasant Street (as in year's past) southeast portion (football field side) from Stevens Street to Court Street on Saturday, 9/30 from 0700 – 1500 for Homecoming. The northwest side will be open for emergency vehicles. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve request. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes: Request from MMA Office of Alumni Relations approved 3-0.

-Request from Karen Cukierski, MMA Administrative Asst Office of Alumni Relations, asking permission for temporary waiver from noise so that a band can perform during Homecoming on Saturday, 9/30 from 10AM – 1PM in the MMA Athletic parking lot. Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve request. Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Colin asked for votes: Request from MMA Office of Alumni Relations temporary noise waiver for Homecoming band performance approved 3-0.

**Colin acknowledged the public present:** -Helen Miller asked how much it cost for this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display. Shawn said \$10,000. Helen asked if a permit is required for those who set off fireworks on their own and if there is a noise rule or anything to control. Shawn explained that there is no permitting. Fireworks on private property is allowed by Maine law. It is impossible for the Castine Fire Dept to monitor as they are tied up with the Town Dock display. If anyone has a complaint or concern, they should contact the Sheriff's Dept. Those setting off fireworks or living nearby are encouraged to talk to their neighbors. -Gus Basile said he did not agree with the Selectboard approving waiver and expense at their last mtg from the RFP process regarding test boring work at the Town Waterfront. He said that this type of decision should not be based on one person's input or opinion. It was explained that the decision was not based upon one person's input; it was based on recommendation from the Harbor Committee and Harbor Master.

**PAST ACTIONS:** NONE.

**Selectboard Comments:** Roberta Boczkiewicz thanked the Castine Fire/Rescue Dept, REC Committee, merchants and volunteers for their roles during Castine's 4<sup>th</sup> of July. There is a lot of planning and hard work that goes into this event.

Upcoming Mtg:

Monday, 7/10/23 – Work Session at 9AM, if needed.

Monday, 7/17/23 - Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to adjourn. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

With no discussion, Colin asked for votes: approved 3-0.

Mtg adjourned at 4:38PM. Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



## MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Shawn Blodgett  
Date: July 05, 2023  
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Meeting with BPL – Submerged Lands Department. Tomorrow at 10:30 AM, starting at the dock, the Submerged Lands Department of the Bureau of Parks and Lands will hold an engagement with those that submitted comments for MMA's pier reconstruction project. The town did submit comments for BPL's review, and I will be attending along with members of the Castine Harbor Committee.

2. Department of Economic and Community Development. At long last, the rules have been released for the implementation of Public Law 2021, c 672, or as most call it, LD 2003. As the Selectboard is aware, the implementation of this law was delayed for a litany of reasons, not the least of which is that the rules had yet to be promulgated. Many may not know that if a law is put into place by Augusta, the State must pay for 90% of the implementation cost borne by municipalities. Currently, the rules published on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June will allow Castine to apply for \$10,000 to help defray the cost of implementation. For Castine, I assess that this law will force the town to, at a minimum, make significant changes to our Zoning Ordinance, minor changes to the town's water and sewer ordinances and I would strongly recommend that the town enact a more comprehensive standalone rental housing ordinance. \$10,000 will not be enough money to hire an outside contractor or consultant to do all of this work, but it will help. Eligible expenses covered are:

- a. Attorney's fees to research, draft and revise zoning ordinances;



- b. Attorney's fees associated with development of legal opinions regarding local regulations;
- c. Staff and contractor time for research and drafting zoning ordinances, including staff time and board/town meetings;
- d. Fees associated with providing notice of election and public meetings; and
- e. Staff time, including overtime and stipends, and other associated expenses, for the conduct of town meetings and elections.

3. British Canal Sign. While I was out of the office, the British Canal sign was "returned" to the town. More accurately stated the sign was placed by unknown parties by the neck and found by public works. The date is still incorrect, and the sign will need to be taken down for re-painting as this version of the sign still has a previous emergency fix from earlier vandalism.

4. LD 791 Update . As of the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month, LD 791 (An Act for Dedicated Funding for State Historic Sites) headed to the appropriations committee. Although the act has passed the legislature, it still needs to have funding appropriated to the bill. I'm happy to provide a list of legislators sitting on the Appropriations Committee for anyone who would like to pen a note.

5. Municipal Review Committee. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the MRC announced co-ownership of the Hampden Recycling Facility with Innovative Resource Recovery. This is the 3d such announcement that MRC has made, so I would not assess that the town's recycling costs will do anything but go up in the near term.

6. Infrastructure and project updates. The large-scale infrastructure work at the dock has been completed. Remaining to be done will be to replace roughly 2,150 square feet of planking. I have traded messages with a Bureau of Parks and Lands Grant representative who is trying to arrange a site visit to help them make a decision on the town's grant application for \$15,000 to help



defray the cost of this work. The lighthouse vestibule continues to be improved. The floors have been stained and varnished and the touch up painting should be completed by the end of the week. This facility will be vastly improved to be opened by Bastille Day. I expect to receive estimates on multiple smaller scale paving projects tomorrow. The insulation portion of the Community Action Grant was completed on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the town hall attic is now largely up to R60 in insulation value along with making the access hatch more air tight. The Witherle Memorial portion of the lighting work has been completed. The Adams School portion has only a few fixtures left to switch out and Emerson Hall is approximately two thirds done but awaiting parts delivery. The last portion of this grant funded activity will be to replace the fire escape doors on either side of the ground floor of town hall. We have received \$50,000 in Community Resiliency Partnership grant money and received and deposited our Efficiency Maine incentive of \$11,200 for the heat pump installation.

To: Castine Selectboard  
From: Castine Bicentennial Planning Committee  
Subject: Recommendation for use of donations for memorial trail  
Date: July 5, 2023

When the COVID Pandemic put a halt to large public gatherings for multiple summer season starting in 2020, the your Bicentennial Planning Committee held out hope that once large public gatherings were deemed safe, the donated funds for a Bicentennial celebration in Castine honoring 200 years of our state's history and Maine's unique position in the women's suffrage movement nearly 100 years after the founding of our state.

Now, nearly four years after starting planning, the reality is that enthusiasm for a large celebration with a tall ship and guest speakers has died down, and the economic realities have set in, as many of the most expensive parts of that celebration have only become more expensive.

Given these observations, your Bicentennial Committee has voted to pivot the use of the donated funds towards the creation a permanent nature trail to be called the Castine Bicentennial Trail, with a recommended path leading from the backside of the Backshore Swimming Pond, along the southern side of the British Canal, and terminating at an existing trail under the British Canal sign.

We recommend this work be committed to the town's Recreational Committee, with the chair of the Bicentennial Committee serving as temporary Rec Committee member to help with the project transition. Thankfully, an all-volunteer group of citizens has already done a lot of exploratory work in the area with respect to a nature trail. Beverly Bishop has kindly provided that work to the Bicentennial Committee chair and will likely make starting the work much easier.

The trail will include a memorial plaque to the 200th anniversary of Maine's state-hood, along with a plaque commemorating Maine's role in the women's suffrage movement 100 years later. Any other nature-related signage is up to the discretion of the Recreation Committee.

Approval of the recommendation should also conclude the business of the Bicentennial Committee.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Colin Powell, Chair