

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

GBM
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DATE: Monday, May 20, 2024

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur, Chair, Dan Leader, Selectboard member; Shawn Blodgett, Town Manager; and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: David Adams, Liz Parish, Scott Vogell, Brooke & Gil Tenney, Pat Bishop, Bryan Cary, Don Tenney, Ruth Ann & Bobby Vagt, Casey Bernard, and David Avery of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Helen Miller and Michelle Robinson.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:00 PM and verified there was a quorum (Roberta Boczkiwicz absent).

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

Gordon MacArthur 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 \$77,090.36. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: General Fund Warrant approved 2-0. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$963.33. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Water Warrant approved 2-0.

Minutes: Dan Leader made motion to approve the March 25, 2024, Public Hearing Mtg minutes. Second by Gordon MacArthur. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 3/25/24 Public Hearing Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the May 6, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 5/6/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving MVU application – Papa’s Smokehouse.

Dan Leader made motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur. Dan said the menu looks delicious. Discussion regarding days, times menu and prices. With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: MVU – Papa’s Smokehouse – approved 2-0.

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

#1 Storm(s) Recovery Update: Gordon MacArthur pointed out that the dock has been well barricaded off for safety.

Shawn also added:

- Fort Madison will need a healthy amount of rip rap to fix the damage it sustained from the storms.
- The Harbor Committee met recently to help write a RFP for grant purposes; They will be sponsoring public community listening sessions in the future to get input regarding the waterfront.
- We have contacted Hedstrom Electric to repair our list of streetlights that need attention.

Dan Leader said he heard a segment recently on Maine Public Radio called “Grow Smart Maine” which was very interesting. He feels there are ways this can work for Castine.

Item 5. Other Business as Required: None.

Communications: a) email from CAA requesting to use the Town Common on Friday, 7/5/24 from 3-6PM to host a Contradance for the community and surrounding areas; music played by Mike & Susie Fay and other musicians; may be considered a “post 4th of July Celebration”.

Dan Leader made motion to approve. Second by Gordon MacArthur.

With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: CAA request to use Town Common – approved 2-0.

Shawn announced that the paving vendor will be in Castine the 1st week of June. Paving Western Court St first; onto Wadsworth Cove Rd and then the two areas on Perkins St. There will be some traffic disruptions which we will post on the Town’s website, FB page and notify the press.

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -Brooke Tenney said Castine History Partners (CHP) which is made up of several Castine organizations and has recently signed a contract working to recognize Castine’s Indigenous history. The 1st step is to create a plan. One of the elements is to look at our signs and decide what to do next.

-Don Tenney asked if when the paving is done, will it include grinding the surface? And if the area at the Backshore by the Twomey house is going to be redone? Shawn said the area that Don was referring to is not in the current plan but needs to be done. A change order for that project will be needed.

-Bobby Vagt gave a CARF update. With the extraordinary generosity of more than \$22,000 in donations received, grants have been given to:

- Castine Kayak Adventures
- Safe Harbor
- Eaton's Boatyard

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: - NONE.

Next Mtgs:

Monday, 6/3/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

Friday, 6/7/24 – T/G Mtg at 9AM.

Monday, 6/10/24 – Work Session at 9AM, if needed.

Monday, 6/17/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg at 4PM.

With no other business, Dan Leader made motion to adjourn.

Second by Gordon MacArthur. Gordon asked for votes: approved 2-0.

Mtg adjourned at 4:23PM.

Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.



MEMORANDUM

To: Castine Selectboard
From: Shawn Blodgett
Date: May 20, 2024
Re: Town Manager's Report

1. Storm(s) Recovery Update.

Starting with the town dock area:

The cement backing for the sheet pile system has been poured and the forms have been removed. I expect the trench to be re-filled within the next day or so to be prepared for paving work later this week or early next week. The decking is being emplaced onto the dock today and should be completed by tomorrow. The railing wood is currently being milled with a vendor and we expect the ordered railing system to be at another vendor withing the next two days. 10"x10" wood beams which will back the railing system will be delivered tomorrow. If all of the various moving pieces arrive as scheduled, we should be completely rebuilt by the first week of June.

The cooling system for the walk in storage area at the Safe Harbor was replaced today.

At the Backshore Recreation Area, Fred Motycka and Larry Redmon conducted the annual beach clean up late last week. Jan Ordway will be coming in at the end of this week to rake up the organic material in the tidal pool area to help abate algae buildup as well as conducting a touch up on the shore side as I expect tidal detritus to come in with the lunar high tide on the 23d. Left to be completed at the Backshore Recreation area will be paving work and parking lot maintenance.

1. Battle Avenue Soils Characterization and Groundwater Analysis.



Bid opening for this project took place on Friday at 2:00 p.m. The bid opening was conducted by myself and Selectboard Chair MacArthur. Castine advertised for 5 weeks as well conducting direct mailings to 5 highly qualified firms as recommended by both Olver Associates and State of Maine web sites. Castine received two bids for the work with the price points of the bids being within \$330 dollars of each other. Both proposals have been sent to Olver Associates for their analysis and recommendation and I expect to hear back from them in the next 48 hours. Once we have their input, I will be prepared to provide the Selectboard with a recommendation of the preferred vendor.

3. Grant Update.

Only one update to grants this week. The Harbor Committee has conducted their first work session to help generate the Request for Proposals for the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund. This grant is for \$50,000 to provide funding for planning and design work to increase the resiliency of the town dock area. We intend to utilize this planning and design into the final phase which will incorporate the \$288,000 we will receive from the Federal Government for town dock expansion.

2. Around the Town.

- a. Castine's annual Memorial Day commemoration will take place on May 27, 2024 beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Court Street beneath the cemetery road. The procession will move up the hill to the Cemetery flagpole, then on to the Common and culminate at the Town Dock at approximately 11:30 a.m..
- b. Following the town's approval of the funds, the contract has been signed and sent to our fireworks vendor for the 4th of July fireworks display.
- c. The Bucksport Fire Department is currently down both a Tanker and a Pumper. I do not have a current estimate on the timeline for the repairs. As of this morning, Castine's tanker was also in the



shop for a warranty covered repair. Both Orland and Castine are on mutual aid warnings in case they are needed to backfill Bucksport.