

Daniel Leach  
(7050m)  
PB  
dy

Town / Gown Meeting Notes  
Friday, September 6, 2024, 9AM  
Holmes Heritage Room; Alford Center at MMA

**Present:** Gordon MacArthur, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Dan Leader, Derik Goodine, Karen Motycka, Craig Johnson, Kate Noel, Peter Stewart, Mark Winter and Michael Dickerson.

**Public:** Debbie Rogers and Bobby Vagt.

Gordon opened the meeting at 9AM.

**Item 1:** Speeding vehicles; Dan Leader expressed his concern about speeding vehicles on Battle Ave. Peter Stewart said Hancock County Sheriff Department was picking up more details in Castine as they are now more fully staffed. Dan asked about installing speed bumps. Both Gordon and Peter recommended not installing speed bumps as they often cause temptation to speed up and launch vehicles off the road.

**Item 2:** Enrollment; Craig updated with numbers for this fall. Enrollment is up. There is currently 268 Freshman, 170 in the regiment. Total enrollment is approximately 925 including part-time students – just under 900 full-time students. Ultimately would like 75 additional students, spread across all programs. Currently 19% of students are female and 60% of students participate in athletics.

**Item 3:** Pier Update; Craig said that Reed & Reed have been great at communication. Small piles will go in within the next few weeks with the larger ones going in mid-October. Currently a watercolor artist rendition is being worked on. The signage should be out in the next month. Debbie Rogers asked if there was going to be an overhead schematic of the pier? Craig said that had not come up, he would see if Reed & Reed had anything that could be used for this.

**Item 4:** General Discussions; This year's Homecoming (9/27-29/24) will be more family friendly. Typically, alumni from 10 plus years attend. Trying to attract younger alumni. Friday night will be outside with a beer garden, bonfire, band and food vendors. On Saturday there will be a kids bounce house next to the soccer field. Town residents are invited to attend.

The student drive safe program will include alumni on Homecoming Weekend and will take them as far as the Bucksport motel.

This weekend will be the first football game in 4 years. The Team of 1993, which was a championship team, will be present to relive their glory days.

A new memorial stone has been installed by the Student Center dedicated to students who were lost while enrolled. Sadly 41 students are listed on this memorial from 1941 – Present Day.

There is currently a memorial stone dedicated to alumni lost at sea. It is being moved to the Student Center location.

Craig wanted the Selectboard and Town Office to be aware of a disturbing situation that recently happened. There was a break in at a rented house. A female student found a man in his 50s – 60s in the house. He knocked on her bedroom door and was talking strangely. Hancock County Sheriff Department was called, and they are currently investigating. The man was not caught, and they do not know who he is.

Gordon asked about the dorm remodel update. Nickerson O'Day was awarded the contract. They will start on a portion of the dorm, tripling up students to make room. The dorm parking lot will be closed, so student vehicles will move to the temporary parking lot. Lights will be added to the temporary parking lot. Peter did not think these lights would negatively affect any residences.

Kate Noel introduced Maine Maritime Academy 2024 -2025 Parking Rules pamphlet. The Town's text alert and web address for Castine Traffic Ordinance was included in the pamphlet. Roberta thanked her for doing this.

There is a new food app available at MMA. It is called Everyday by Sodexo. Currently pizza can be ordered by students and town residents alike, to be picked up at the Way Point in the Student Center. They also have grab and go available. Dan asked if the public were still welcome to eat at the mess deck. Yes, the public is welcome. Breakfast is served 6-8AM, Lunch is served from 11AM-1PM and dinner is served from 4:30-7PM.

Dan asked about safety training based upon the recent Georgia School Shooting. Peter replied that all MMA staff are trained. Dorms were recently changed to keypunch locks in hopes of limiting the propping open of doors. MMA is the only college in Maine without a local police department. It is reality that if something happens, law enforcement is at least a half hour away.

Roberta asked if there was anything the students would like from the Town. Restaurants or places to eat was the answer. Everyone would like that.

Kate suggested that everyone should look at the RPT video that was posted on Facebook. It gives a good look at what RPT is all about. So far it has had over 27000 views.

Gordon asked about the MMA President search. Peter said the Selectboard would be contacted to help give insight as to what the Town would like in the new President. They hope to announce the new president in February – March, with the new President being in place by June – July.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 10/04/24 at 9AM, Emerson Hall.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40AM.

Minutes by Karen Motycka.