

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes September 26, 2017; 5:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Gregory N. Watkins, Chairman; Glenn R. Zaidman, Vice-Chairman; Robert P. Murphy; Robert J. McHatton, Sr.; G. Frederick Packard

Administration Present: Town Manager Robert Peabody; Deputy Town Manager Georgiann Fleck; Town Clerk Laurie Chadbourne; Fire Chief Steve Fay; Public Works Director Jim Kidder; Recreation Director Gary Colello

1. Call to Order

Chairman Watkins called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the "Pledge of Allegiance."

3. Approval of Minutes

a. September 12, 2017

Motion was made by Selectman McHatton for approval of the minutes from the September 12, 2017 Board meeting; second from Selectman Packard. 4 approve/0 oppose/1 abstention (Chairman Watkins abstained as he was absent from the September 12, 2017 Board Meeting)

b. September 13, 2017

Motion was made by Selectman McHatton for approval of the minutes from the September 13, 2017 Board meeting; second from Selectman Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose

4. Public Comments and Presentations on Non-Agenda Items

Roger Willby, resident, voiced concerns regarding the boat landing at Highland Lake and requested that the Town remove the large rocks causing damage to his and other boats.

William Preis stated that about a year and half ago, while the Town Hall was undergoing major renovations to assure its continued existence, the ping pong players of the Bridgton Rec Program wanted to do something special for the Town to show their appreciation for thirteen years of use of the building. Mr. Preis presented a commemorative plaque to the Town in celebration of more than 165 years existence of the Bridgton Town House or Town Hall as it is known today. The photo of the Town Hall, taken around 1910 looks remarkable the same as it looks today. The plaque is designed for outdoor use in state and national parks and is printed on the heaviest gauge aluminum (.125) to ensure its long life. The plaque will be mounted indoors on the wall of the Town Hall vestibule by the Public Works Department. The inscription reads, "The Old Town Hall, or "Town House" as it was originally called, is the oldest public building in Bridgton. Built in 1851, it was a great source of community pride. In his address dedicating the building on January 8, 1852, Marshall Cram declared "The erection of the building marks an era in the history of the town," representing "the progress of improvement from the rude customs of pioneer life, to the high degree of civilization and refinement, which characterized the society of the present time." His dedication, which was published in a small booklet, is the first recorded history of the town, preserving much of the story of Bridgton's early years. The Town Hall was renovated in 1902: the original symmetrical double-door entrance was replaced with the current façade; the rear of the building was extended 21 ft.; and the interior was remodeled. The Doric Style Column in the front of the building was mistakenly installed upside down and remains that way today. Although the town offices have since moved, the Old Town Hall still fulfills its original purpose as a place for Town Meeting and other gatherings that bring people together. Copy supplied by Ned Allen of the Bridgton Historical Society. This Commemorative Plaque donated by the Bridgton Rec. Ping Pong Players in appreciation for our 13 years of use of this great facility."

In addition, a check for \$300 was presented to the Recreation Department for summer camp field trip funds. This is the fourth time the ping pong players have donated to the department. Mr. Preis noted that the program is free and encouraged public participation.

Fire Chief Steve Fay recognized New England Fire Equipment & Apparatus Corporation for their generous extrication equipment donation of \$22,436. This has afforded the Bridgton Fire / Rescue Department the ability to equip the Engine Company #4 and Engine Company #6 with basic hydraulic extrication tools consisting of a gasoline powered hydraulic pump, a thirty foot hose and a combination spreader / cutter tool for both as well as an additional cutting tool for Engine #6. This donation has also allowed us to equip the new Engine #5 with two complete sets of extrication tools. When Engine #5 is put into service, it will serve a dual purpose as a “traditional” engine as well as a “technical” rescue squad. Operationally, this affords the Town of Bridgton to have three fire companies located along the busiest routes in our town to have technical rescue capability. Our total cost to do this was \$12,000.

Selectman McHatton requested a response to the concern regarding the boat landing to which Public Works Director Kidder responded that people are consistently powering their boats on to the trailer and it moves the rocks and digs holes.

5. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports

6. Old Business

There were no items under old business

7. Correspondence and Other Pertinent Information

There was no correspondence and other pertinent information

8. New Business

a. Awards and Other Administrative Recommendations

1. Park Hours

Town Manager Peabody submitted a memorandum to the Board dated September 20, 2017. The recent “dawn to dusk” vote by the Board resulted in some confusion by the public. In order to clarify the intent and concern of the Department Heads, he asked that the Board consider a new motion based on the following suggestions: Dawn to dusk would apply to the following Town beaches – Woods Pond Beach, Highland Lake Beach, Plummers Landing Beach and Salmon Point Beach; Dawn to dusk would apply to the following Town parks – Skateboard Area, Willis Park, Sandy Creek Park, Perry Park, Farragut Park and Town Common; 6:00am to 10:00pm – Harmon Field, Pondicherry Park and Sabatis Island; No hourly restrictions- Kramer’s Landing (boat launch, Moose Pond Boat Landing, Woods Pond Boat Landing, Shorey Park, Veteran’s Park and Dam Park. **Motion** was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to approve the suggested park hours effective immediately; second from Selectman Murphy. **Motion** was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to amend the motion to be effective when proper signage is in place; second from Selectman Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose

b. Permits/Documents Requiring Board Approval

1. Abatements and Supplements

Motion was made by Selectman/Assessor McHatton to approve the recommended September 26, 2017 tax abatements totaling \$7,997.71 and Supplemental Tax Certificate totaling \$6,192.34; second from Vice-Chairman Zaidman. 5 approve/0 oppose

2. Accept \$400 Award to Recreation Department from the Ed Rock Community Spirit Fund of the Maine Community Foundation

Motion was made by Selectman McHatton to accept \$400 from the Ed Rock Community Spirit Fund and to utilize the funds for the summer camp for the 2018 season; second from Selectman Packard. Vice-Chairman Zaidman asked if these funds will be for scholarship recipients only to which Recreation Director Gary Colello responded that the funds will benefit the day camp as a whole. 5 approve/0 oppose

c. Selectmen's Concerns

- **Selectman McHatton** noted that the snowmobile club receives funding from the state based on the number of registrations processed and asked how to also allocate the agent fee back to the club. Town Manager Peabody responded that that processing fee is used to offset taxes. He added that the club could request additional funding as an outside agency which would be considered during the budget process. Town Manager Peabody has asked the president of the snowmobile club to submit an email for further research on past funding and future options.
- **Selectman Packard** had no concerns.
- **Selectman Murphy** asked for an update on the South High Street Cemetery boundary issues. Town Manager Peabody will proceed with research and report back to the Board accordingly.
- **Vice-Chairman Zaidman** asked if the Manager has heard anything from MDOT, Senator Hamper or Representative Ginzler to which Town Manager Peabody responded that he had received no responses as of yet.
- **Chairman Watkins** asked what happened to the directional hand sign in the park between the House of Pizza and Breakroom to which Public Works Director Kidder responded that it fell down and broke a while ago.

d. Town Manager's Report/Deputy Town Manager's Report

Deputy Town Manager Georgiann Fleck submitted and read the following report into the record:

**“DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT
September 26, 2017**

Personnel

Robert “Bob” Fitzcharles Sr., Transfer Station Manager, has returned to work on this date after an extended leave of absence. I would like to thank Jim Kidder, Public Works Director, for supervising the facility during Bob's absence and thank the Transfer Station Crew for their efforts in maintaining facility operations flawlessly.

I would like to congratulate **Brenda Day, Administrative Assistant**, for successfully completing the State of Maine Internal Plumbing and Subsurface Wastewater examinations. This gives Brenda the authority to inspect septic systems and plumbing installations. This advancement gives the Town a back-up when Rob Baker, Code Enforcement Officer, is unavailable. Congratulations Brenda!

Fire Chief, Steve Fay, applied and has been accepted for attendance into the National Fire Academy (“NFA”) located in Emmitsburg, Maryland on January 14, 2018 to January 19, 2018. The Academy is governed by the United States Fire Administration offering a curriculum that provides specialized training and education not otherwise available through state fire training agencies and local fire departments.

In September **George Szok, Bridgton Grant Writer**, submitted three grant applications totaling \$11,690.00. \$7,150 is through the Coulombe Foundation for Summer Camp and the remaining \$4,540 is through MMA for office desk sets and various police related items.

Granite Stones

The **granite stones from the Moose Pond Causeway** are available at a cost of \$300.00 per stone. The Town reserves the right to limit the number of stones per individual. Arrangements must be made with Jim Kidder, Public Works Director, at 647-1127. The purchaser must pay in advance of picking the stones up at Public Works. The proceeds from the stones will be deposited into the Moose Pond Trust Fund.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Purple Light Nights brighten our community by getting involved **#takeastand**. If you or someone you know is being abused please call the confidential hotline at 1-800-537-6066. On October 1st you will see strings of purple lights displayed as a way to say Domestic violence has NO place in our community!

Vandalism and Arson

Over the past several months there has been an increase in vandalism throughout town, most recently this morning there were **four separate fires** beginning at 2:19a.m. at Highland Lake Beach resulting in a total loss of the lifeguard station including all the equipment stored for the season followed by three separate port-a-pottie fires (behind Bridgton Books, behind Stevens Brook Elementary School and at Harmon Field.) The State Fire Marshal's Office has been contacted to conduct an investigation into these incidents. If you have any information, saw any suspicious activity or have surveillance cameras which may have picked up any suspicious activity during this time-frame please contact the Bridgton Police Department immediately at 207-647-8814. Arson is a serious crime and will not be tolerated. Further, taxpayer's money is spent to improve and beautify the Town with Various Departments maintaining the infrastructure during the best and worst of weather conditions only to have it heinously and needlessly destroyed. We are asking that the public be vigilant and assist in any way possible to prevent further destruction of our town's amenities by reporting any suspicious activity to the Bridgton Police Department immediately.



Lifeguard Station



Behind Bridgton Books



Stevens Brook Elementary School



Harmon Field

Respectfully submitted,
Georgiann M. Fleck
Deputy Town Manager"

9. Treasurer's Warrants

Motion was made by Selectman McHatton for approval of Treasurer's Warrants numbered 24, 25, 26 and 27; second from Vice-Chairman Zaidman. 5 approve/0 oppose

10. MSAD #61

a. Discussion of Bridgton Memorial School

Peter Lowell reported that bringing the narrow gauge railroad back to the memorial school area is still being explored. Vice-Chairman Zaidman suggested a community workshop session be scheduled to discuss future options of the school. Town Manager Peabody will gather additional information for the workshop event. The Board set a workshop meeting date of November 9, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. to allow ample time for the Town Manager to make notification to all interested groups and individuals.

Chairman Watkins brought agenda item 12 and 13 forward at 6:00 P.M.

12. Public Hearing at 6:00 P.M.

a. Maine Municipal Association Local General Assistance Ordinance and Yearly Appendices A Through D

Chairman Watkins opened the public hearing on the Maine Municipal Association Local General Assistance Ordinance and Yearly Appendices A through D at 6:03 P.M. There were no public comments. Chairman Watkins closed the public hearing at 6:04 P.M.

13. Action Items Following Public Hearing

a. Maine Municipal Association Local General Assistance Ordinance and Yearly Appendices A Through D

Motion was made by Selectman McHatton to approve the Maine Municipal Association Model Ordinance for General Assistance including Appendices A through D for the period of October 1, 2017 until September 30, 2018; second from Selectman Packard. 5 approve/0 oppose

11. Public Comments

There were no public comments or presentations.

14. Dates for the Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting and/or Workshop

- October 10, 2017
- October 24, 2017

15. Adjourn

Chairman Watkins adjourned the meeting at 6:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie L. Chadbourne
Town Clerk