

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2021; 3:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Carmen E. Lone, Chairman; Glenn R. Zaidman, Vice-Chairman; Paul A. Tworog; G. Frederick Packard; Robert J. McHatton, Sr.; G. Frederick Packard.
Administration Present: Town Manager Robert A. Peabody, Jr.; Deputy Town Manager Georgiann Fleck; Town Clerk Laurie Chadbourne; Community Development Director Linda LaCroix; Recreation Director Gary Colello; Code Enforcement Officer Brenda Day.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lone called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the "Pledge of Allegiance."

3. 3:00 P.M. Executive Session Per MRS Title 1, Section 405.6.E. for Discussion of Legal Matters

Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to enter executive session at 3:00 P.M. per MRS Title 1, Section 405.6.E. for discussion of legal matters; second from Selectman McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose **Motion** was made by Selectman Packard to exit executive session at 3:41 P.M.; second from Selectman Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose

4. 4:00 P.M. Executive Session Per MRS Title 1 Section 405.6.A.1: Board of Selectmen Matter

Motion was made by Selectman Packard to enter executive session at 3:41 P.M. per MRS Title 1, Section 405.6.A. for discussion of a Board of Selectman matter; second from Selectman Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose **Motion** was made by Chairman Lone to exit executive session at 4:15 P.M.; second from Selectman Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose

There was a brief recess before Chairman Lone called the meeting back to order at 5:00 P.M.

5. 5:00 Action Items Following Executive Session

a. *Administrative Consent Agreement: 43 Grover Way, Map 14, Lot 24C*

This item was considered after agenda item 8 (see below).

6. Approval of Minutes

a. November 17, 2021

b. November 23, 2021

Motion was made by Selectman Packard for approval of the minutes from the November 17, 2021 and November 23, 2021 Board Meeting; second from Vice-Chairman Zaidman. 5 approve/0 oppose

7. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Blaine Chapman, President Bridgton Easy Riders Snowmobile Club, asked for permission to use town owned property on both sides of Burnham Road, Willis Park Road, Sandy Creek Park (off Route 107), the road going to the new treatment plant across from Dunkin Donuts, the Town Garage property, and the property behind the Chamber of Commerce to Depot Street. **Motion** was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to allow Bridgton Easy Riders use of town land as requested; second from Selectman McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose

Blaine Chapman requested that the Select Board consider how landowners will dispose of any trash, without cost, that gets left on their property left if a pay per bag system is passed.

Paul Tworog noted that the snowmobile maps also include ski trails and are available at various locations around Town or the Club will mail them upon receipt of payment.

Linda LaCroix introduced new employee, Deputy Community Development Director Victoria Hill. The Board welcomed Ms. Hill.

Police Chief Jones reported that Melissa Scammon was the victim of a brutal attack that occurred in Bridgton on Saturday, December 11 at 4:30 A.M. He commended her on her bravery and thanked her for attending the meeting. Daniel Valsecchi was driving by and witnessed the assault, stopped, scared the suspect away and provided comfort to Ms. Scammon. Chief Jones thanked Mr. Valsecchi and along with Officer Mitchell Johnson, presented to him a citizens lifesaving award which read the following: "Bridgton Police Department Citizen Life Saving Award Presented to Daniel K. Valsecchi for acting with bravery and compassion when discovering and interrupting a serious assault in progress. Your willingness to intervene, provide care, and call for police assistance helped save a community member's life. Given this day at the Town of Bridgton Board of Selectman's Meeting, December 14, 2021, From Chief Phillip A. Jones."

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Lone thanked Mr. Valsecchi for being a citizen Bridgton is proud to have and appreciates his good example. Chairman Lone also commented that she was happy to see Ms. Scammon in the audience and that Ms. Scammon has the support of the people of Bridgton.

8. Committee/Liaison Reports

Bridgton Community Development Advisory Chair Ursula Flaherty reported that the members are doing amazing work and acknowledged their efforts and large of number of hours dedicated. She thanked members Helen Archer, Beth Cossey, Greg Bullard, Angie Cook, Kevin Raday, Linda LaCroix, Robert McHatton, Sr.; Evan Miller and Margaret Sanborn. Ms. Flaherty also recognized and thanked the Arts and Culture Subcommittee and provided a brief update of their progress.

5. 5:00 Action Items Following Executive Session

a. Administrative Consent Agreement: 43 Grover Way, Map 14, Lot 24C

Attorney Bannon submitted a fourteen-page letter requesting postponement of approval of the consent agreement until the Board of Appeals has decided.

Attorney Lyons requested ratification of the consent agreement as it has already been determined the best way to move forward.

Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to ratify the consent agreement between the Town of Bridgton and H. Gail Chaiken, Trustee of the H. Gail Chaiken Revocable Living Trust; second from Selectman Packard. 4 approve/1 oppose (Tworog was opposed)

9. Correspondence, Presentations and Other Pertinent Information

a. Resignation of Richard Danis from the Board of Appeals

Motion was made by Selectman Packard to accept the resignation of Richard Danis from the Board of Appeals; second from Selectman Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose

10. New Business

a. Awards and Other Administrative Recommendations

1. Application from Nancy Chapman for Membership to the Pondicherry Park Stewardship Committee (tabled from 11/23/2021)

Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to take this item off the table; second from Selectman McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose

Nancy Chapman introduced herself, reviewed her application which supports her interest in serving on the Committee. **Motion** was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to appoint Nancy Chapman to the Pondicherry Park Advisory Committee; second from Selectman Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose

Motion was made by Selectman McHatton to accept the resignation from the Pondicherry Park Stewardship Committee from Glenn Zaidman; second from Selectman Packard. 5 approve/0 oppose

2. CDBG 2022-2023 Infrastructure Project Discussion and Request for Select Board Input

Community Development Director LaCroix reported that the Community Development Advisory Committee is recommending that the Select Board consider the following two projects supported by the Committee: 1. Remove existing remains of a sidewalk and install new sidewalk on the full length of Elm Street. This would address liabilities from a much-degraded existing sidewalk and would increase the aesthetics and safety of the travel way. 2. If anticipated program budget and costs for the above project allow for another project, the VCDAC recommends consideration of an initial scope of work on a pocket park at (East) Main Street brought forward from a previous program year. The work would include eliminating the knot weed that covers half of the proposed area, which takes a year or more, followed by planting new grass in the affected section. Discussion ensued. The Board fully supports moving forward with the Elm Street project and four members are in support of the Pocket Park.

b. Permits/Documents Requiring Board Approval

1. Board Member Remote Participation Policy

Motion was made by Selectman Packard to approve the Remote Participation Policy and schedule a Public Hearing for January 11, 2022; second from Selectman Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose

2. Amended Fee Schedule

Motion was made by Selectman Packard to approve the revised fee schedule submitted, effective upon approval; second from Vice-Chairman Zaidman. 5 approve/0 oppose

3. Appointment of 2022 Town Manager, Treasurer, Tax Collector & Road Commissioner

Motion was made by Chairman Lone to appoint Robert J. Peabody, Jr. as Town Manager, Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Road Commissioner to a one-year term commencing January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022; second from Selectman McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose

4. Confirmation of Town Manager's 2022 Appointments

Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to confirm the Town of Bridgton 2022 Annual Appointments submitted by the Town Manager; second from Selectman Packard. 5 approve/0 oppose

5. New Road Names

a. Independence Place

b. Sanctuary Cove

Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to approve the road name “Grateful Way;” second from Selectman McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose **Motion** was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to approve the road name “Independence Place;” second from Selectman McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose

c. Selectmen’s Concerns

- **Selectman Packard** noted that Select Board meetings are getting longer and suggested shortening the meetings or attracting younger people to the Board.
- **Selectman Tworog** requested the approach and timeline for updating the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Selectman Tworog** would like to see more promotion of winter events and suggested the Community Development Director LaCroix touch base with the Snowmobile Club to explore participation in their map production.
- **Vice-Chairman Zaidman** thanked all involved for a job well done with the Festival of Lights.
- **Vice-Chairman Zaidman** asked if the Water Department has paid their bill to which Town Manager Peabody responded that they have not even accepted delivery of the bill that was mailed certified. Vice-Chairman Zaidman suggested that the Police Chief deliver the bill on behalf of the Town.
- **Selectman McHatton** requested that the Town Manager explore options for removal of trash left on the snowmobile trails.
- **Chairman Lone** requested that the Board meet on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. to negotiate the Town Manager’s contract.
- **Chairman Lone** also thanked everyone for a job well done with the Festival of Lights.
- **Chairman Lone** reported that there will be a covid booster and vaccine at the Community Center on December 23rd from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.

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

Town Manager Peabody read the following into the record:

Manager’s Report, 12/14/21

General

A reminder that masks are no longer required at the Town Office, Town Hall and Transfer Station for vaccinated individuals. Unvaccinated individuals are asked to wear a mask.

An important reminder that with winter weather upon us, it is important to keep your driveways and private roads cleared and sanded so that, if the need arises, emergency personnel can safely access your property.

Regarding weather events, please be aware that we post information on the Town’s Facebook page and the Town’s website.

Additionally, all the local television channels are notified when the Town Office closes.

Town Office Closing Early at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 17th, 2021, for our Annual Staff Holiday Party.

Justin McIver wanted to let the Board and the town know the exciting news that he will be taking down the two buildings on the corner at the Gateway site this Thursday morning at 8:30 am. He will have LRTV and the Bridgton News there to document the event as well as the new owner of the Bridgton Brew Pub, Justin O’Connor. He would like to extend the invitation to the Select Board, staff, and department heads to join him for this long-awaited event.

Community Development Department

A reminder that the 2022-2023 CDBG program year applications for non-profit service entities are available on the Town’s website and are due January 11. An informational applicant workshop will be hosted by the Community Development Advisory Committee on December 15th at 9 AM at the Town Office downstairs meeting room. We encourage anyone interested in applying for a grant attend this meeting. For information reach out to Deputy Community Development Director Tory Hill at VHill@BridgtonMaine.org or by phone to 207-803-9960.

Public Services Department

The traffic light at the intersection of Willett Road and Portland Road has been updated to being camera controlled instead of buried sensors in the road. Feedback has been positive.

Recreation Department

I am happy to report the Festival of Lights was a successful event for the Town of Bridgton. The parade had around 25 floats, including PWD, Rec, Police, and Fire Departments. The tree lighting was successful and had a full crowd on hand.

The craft fair was busy all day. The Recreation Department raised \$822.00 to be used for Summer Rec Program. The money collected was from rental fees from vendors and raffle. \$560 from the vendors and \$262 from the raffle.

Between Halloween and Festival of Lights the Recreation Department has now fundraised \$3,081 for summer and before and after school scholarships.

Police Department

Cynthia Eaton has come on board as our new ACO. She is currently certified as an Animal Control Officer and serves neighboring Oxford County Towns in the same compacity.

Officer Chaine has embarked on the Wreath's Across America convoy escort. He and many other Maine Officers will escort the convoy to Arlington National Cemetery for various wreath laying ceremonies. They will also stop at selected locations along the route for local ceremonies honoring our soldiers and their families. We are proud to have Officer Chaine represent the PD as a leader in this event.

In response to recent events, BPD is planning to host a self-defense workshop in partnership with BKD Karate Dojo. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

This Friday, Officer Ryan McCloud will graduate from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Ryan has worked very hard in achieving this goal and has been ranked in the top 10 of his graduating class.

Health Officer

There is a COVID-19 Moderna/Johnson & Johnson Booster Clinic being held at the Community Center, December 23rd from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Community Pharmacies is holding the clinic.

Maine CDC is recommending masking in public whether vaccinated or not.

Sand for Seniors has helped 20 seniors to date. The Police Department has been making the deliveries.

11. Old Business

a. Wastewater Status Update

Town Manager Peabody provided a brief wastewater status update.

12. Treasurer's Warrants

Motion was made by Selectman Packard for approval of Treasurers Warrants numbered 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64; second from Vice-Chairman Zaidman. 5 approve/0 oppose

13. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

14. Dates for the Next Board of Selectmen's Meetings

December 28, 2021; January 5, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M. Workshop with Ordinance Review Committee; January 11, 2022; January 25, 2022

15. Adjourn

Motion was made by Selectman McHatton to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 P.M.; second from Vice-Chairman Zaidman. 5 approve/0 oppose

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie L. Chadbourne
Town Clerk