

Select Board Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2023; 5:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Carmen E. Lone, Chair; Robert J. McHatton, Sr.; Vice-Chair; Paul A. Tworog; Carrye Castleman-Ross; Kenneth J. Murphy

Department Heads Present: Town Manager Robert A. Peabody, Jr; Town Clerk Laurie L. Chadbourne; Police Chief Phil Jones; Recreation Director Gary Colello; Community Development Director Victoria Hill.

1. Call to Order

Chair Lone 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: July 11, 2023

Motion was made by Vice-Chair McHatton for approval of the July 11, 2023 Select Board Meeting; second from Member Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose

4. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Planning Board Chair Deb Brusini reported active engagement with the Code Enforcement Officer and Community Development Director on LD2003. The Planning Board will be seeking public comment during ordinance development.

Community Development Director Victoria Hill reported that she has applied for reimbursement of legal costs for LD2003. Bridgton is eligible for up to \$10,000 and we should be hearing back soon.

5. Committee/Liaison Reports

Member Castleman-Ross encouraged public input and attendance at the Transfer Station Workshop scheduled for October 5, 2023.

The Eastern Airport Authority has provided Chair Lone with a lot of information, she noted that it’s an exciting facility and they are working on a management plan.

6. Correspondence, Presentations and Other Pertinent Information

a. Fidium Fiber Build in Bridgton

Sarah Davis, Senior Vice-President of Government Affairs at Consolidated Communications, Fidium Fiber’s parent company provided a brief presentation of regarding the local build-out for providing broadband internet to Bridgton residents. Ms. Davis responded to several questions asked by the Board. The Board thanked Ms. Davis.

b. Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) Housing Grant Opportunity

Christian Roadman, Senior Planner at CPCOG, would like to partner with Bridgton to apply for a grant to increase housing opportunities. Community Development Director Hill added that the grant will be used to conduct a feasibility study to determine parcels that may support affordable housing, an assessment without commitment. **Motion** was made Chair Lone to sign a letter of support for the affordable housing study; second from Member Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose

7. New Business

a. Awards and Other Administrative Recommendations

1. Adoption of the Town of Bridgton Open Space Plan

Community Development Director Hill reviewed the proposed Open Space Plan and responded to several questions asked by the Board. Joseph Gallinari asked if this Plan is intended for town owned property only or will private property be included to which Chair Lone responded that the plan is for town owned land and private property will be included only through creating partnership with cooperative land owners. **Motion** was made by Chair Lone to adopt the Town of Bridgton Open Space Plan; second from Member Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose
Director Hill will develop a committee charge for Board review and consideration.

b. Permits/Documents Requiring Board Approval

1. Certificate of Commitment of Sewer User Rates Commitment #277

Motion was made by Vice-Chair McHatton to commit the April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 Sewer User Rate Commitment #277 comprising 3 pages totaling \$2,701.68 to the Treasurer for collection; second from Member Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose

2. MMA Annual Election – Vice-President and Executive Committee Members

Motion was made by Member Tworog to approve the slate of candidates as presented; second from Chair Lone. 5 approve/0 oppose

c. Select Board Comments

- **Member Murphy** thanked all the residents and businesses that participated in another successful Music on Main event.
- **Member Castleman-Ross** thanked Deb Brusini for all her work on LD 2003 and hopes that solutions for affordable housing in Bridgton are forthcoming.
- **Member Castleman-Ross** appreciated the presentation from Anne Krieg about the work they are doing in Bangor noting that Bridgton can learn a lot from their experience.
- **Member Tworog** urged anyone that is interested in affordable housing to attend the continuation of the Planning Board public hearing regarding downtown development that includes fifteen new units of housing.
- **Member Tworog** requested review of the Lake Level Policy be added to a future agenda.
- **Member Tworog** requested discussion of voting of items that are not on the agenda be added to a future agenda.
- **Member Tworog** asked for an update on projected studies of major projects that require grants or town funding. Town Manager Peabody responded that the police department is working on their annual public safety grant, Community Development Director Hill will be providing an update on the HAM Complex later in the meeting and there has been some discussion regarding a sidewalk grant offered by MDOT.
- **Member Tworog** requested a breakdown of vendor transactions and worked performed at HAM Complex to include name, vendor, what was purchased, and the cost.
- **Vice-Chair McHatton** noted the difficulty in getting through the pathway at the Town Office parking lot due to the weeds to which Town Manager Peabody responded that he and the Public Services Director will be resolving.
- **Chair Lone** reminded members to remain pleasant noting that she prefers to run the meetings following the Maine Moderators Manual.
- **Chair Lone** requested an update of the K9 project to which Town Manager Peabody responded that the original dog is now serving a department in Massachusetts and as soon as the new K9 Officer is identified, the Town will move forward with another K9.

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

Town Manager Peabody read the following report into the record:

General Information

The Town is accepting applications for full-time Police Officers, and seasonal Park Rangers. Job descriptions and applications may be found the Town's website.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office

Applications are being accepted for the Senior Property Tax Relief Program. Applications are available on the Town's website and at the counter. The deadline is August 1st.

Police Department

The PD will be hosting National Night Out (a community block party) at the Skate Park next Tuesday from 5pm-8pm. There will be many community partners present giving away pizza, cotton candy, snow cones, and other treats. MEH will once again be hosting a bird house building station, officers will be in the dunk tank to raise money for a good cause, there will be a distracted driving demo using golf carts and our impaired driving goggles. There will also be a K9 demonstration and live music from local legend Bruce Marshal.

There is no cost to attend, we hope to see everyone there.

8. Old Business

a. ~~Wastewater~~ Project Status Update

Town Manager Peabody provided brief project status updates.

9. Treasurer's Warrants

Motion was made by Vice-Chair McHatton for approval of Treasurer's Warrants numbered 201, 203, 204, 1134, 1135, and 1136; second from Chair Lone. 5 approve/0 oppose

10. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Community Development Director Hill and Recreation Director Colello are working on a thorough review process for the HAM Complex involving the hiring of a company to review all options and recommend a master plan. A request for proposals has been issued and will be funded through the Recreation Department.

Recreation Director Colello thanked all involved with the state softball tournament, including Rex Rolfe for all his efforts. Director Colello reported that approximately \$5,000 was received through entrance fees and the snack shack. Town Manager Peabody also thanked Rex Rolfe for all his help.

11. Dates for the Next Select Board Meetings

August 8, 2023, August 22, 2023, October 5, 2023 at 5PM (Transfer Station Workshop)

12. Adjourn

Motion was made by Vice-Chair McHatton to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 P.M.; second from Member Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie L. Chadbourne
Town Clerk