

Select Board Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2024; 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

Administration Present: Town Manager Robert Peabody, Jr.; Deputy Town Manager Georgiann Fleck; Town Clerk Laurie Chadbourne; Community Development Director Victoria Hill; Public Services Director David Madsen; Recreation Director Gary Colello.

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: December 12, 2023

Motion was made by Member Murphy to approve the December 12, 2023 Select Board Meeting Minutes; second from Member Castleman-Ross. 5 approve/0 oppose

4. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Celeste Koehler, resident of Sweden Road, had previously submitted concerns regarding the collapse of Adams Pond Road and never received a response. Public Services Director David Madsen apologized for the lack of response and reported that the area will be reconstructed in the spring.

5. Committee/Liaison Reports

Member Tworog encouraged public attendance at the Pondicherry Park Committee Meetings.

6. Correspondence, Presentations, and Other Pertinent Information

a. Winter Carnival Presentation and Request for Approval

On behalf of the Greater Bridgton Chamber of Commerce, Dan Harden asked for permission to use the Highland Lake Beach property for winter carnival events on February 17th from 7:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. He also requested permission to close Highland Road between Creamery and Kennard Street except to emergency vehicles. Noble House owner Lynn Williams asked if there will be signage to redirect traffic to which Mr. Harden responded that there will be signage to redirect traffic. **Motion** was made by Chair Lone to grant permission to the Greater Bridgton Chamber of Commerce to use Highland Lake Beach on February 17, 2024 from 7:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. for the 2024 Winter Carnival events, to approve closure of Highland Road between Creamery and Kennard Streets except to emergency vehicles, and to designate Kennard Street as one way; second from Vice-Chair McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose

b. HAM Complex Master Plan

Recreation Director Gary Colello presented a masterplan for the HAM Complex (see attached).

At 5:30 P.M., Chair Lone brought agenda item 7 and 8 forward.

7. Public Hearing

a. Special Amusement Permit from Shawnee Peak Holdings LLC dba Pleasant Mountain Located at 119 Mountain Road

Chair Lone opened the public hearing at 5:30 P.M. on a special amusement permit to Shawnee Peak Holdings LLC dba Pleasant Mountain located at 119 Mountain Road. There were no comments. Chair Lone closed the hearing at 5:31 P.M.

b. Special Amusement Permit from Noble House Located at 81 Highland Road

Chair Lone opened the public hearing at 5:30 P.M. on a special amusement permit to Noble House located at 81 Highland Road. There were no comments. Chair Lone closed the hearing at 5:32 P.M.

8. Action Items Following Public Hearing

a. Special Amusement Permit from Shawnee Peak Holdings LLC dba Pleasant Mountain Located at 119 Mountain Road

Vice-Chair McHatton asked what the regular hours of operation are at Pleasant Mountain. **Motion** was made by Chair Lone to approve a special amusement permit to Shawnee Peak Holdings LLC dba Pleasant Mountain; second from Member Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose

b. Special Amusement Permit from Noble House Located at 81 Highland Road

Member Tworog asked if there are any changes to the Noble House from last year to which owner Lynn Williams responded that there were no changes. **Motion** was made by Chair Lone to approve a special amusement permit to Noble House; second from Member Castleman-Ross. 5 approve/0 oppose

Chair Lone returned to agenda item 6.b.

b. HAM Complex Master Plan

Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Chair Lone to accept the HAM Complex Master Plan; second from Vice-Chair McHatton. 4 approve/1 oppose (Member Tworog was opposed)

7. *Public Hearing*

8. *Action Items Following Public Hearing*

These items were addressed earlier in the meeting.

9. New Business

a. Awards and Other Administrative Recommendations

1. Budget Review Timeline

Deputy Town Manager Fleck provided a suggested schedule for the Select Board to begin review of the FY 2024/2025 proposed budget with the respective department heads and outside agencies. Member Tworog noted the long-term goal of keeping the tax rate steady and would like to begin the process by first reviewing the revenue. Member Murphy was unsure of his availability and will let the Town Manager and Chair know after he reviews his schedule tomorrow.

b. Permits/Documents Requiring Board Approval

1. Sewer Commitment #282

Motion was made by Member Tworog to commit the September 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023 Sewer User Rate Commitment #282 comprising 5 pages totaling \$23,431.96 to the Treasurer for collection; second from Vice-Chair McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose

c. Select Board Comments

- Member Murphy had no comments.
- Member Castleman-Ross had no comments.
- Member Tworog suggested that the Select Board draft a generic letter of support for electric vehicle charging stations in Bridgton to which the other members agreed.
- Vice-Chair McHatton encouraged attendance at the CDAC Meetings.
- Vice-Chair McHatton asked how the sewer project is going to which Public Services Director David Madsen responded that it's going well with only a few minor issues.
- Chair Lone had no comments.

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

Town Manager Peabody read the following report into the record:

"General Information

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.

Save the date for the Maine Lakes Winter Carnival. It will be held Saturday, February 17th at Highland Lake Beach,

Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office

A reminder that quarterly real estate taxes are due February 15, and May 15.

It is time to renew your dog licenses for 2024. Please bring the current rabies certificate with you. You can also obtain your dog's registration online via the State of Maine dog licensing service until January 31, 2024. Kindly be advised that a late fee of \$25 per dog will be imposed after January 31, 2024, per State Law.

Community Development Department

Happy New Year! During 2024, the Comprehensive Plan Task Force will be asking you a Question of the Month! January's question is: "Where do you take out of town visitors?" Please visit the Community Development page on the Town of Bridgton website to answer the Question of the Month and to learn more about the Comprehensive Planning process.

Police Department

BPD is still advertising for two open full time patrol positions. Applications can be directed to Chief Jones at pjones@bridgtonmaine.org.

Recreation

Adult programs such as Jumping Janes Senior Fitness, Tai Chi, Pickleball, Archery, Walking, Ping Pong, and Karate take place weekly at the Bridgton Town Hall.

Financials

Before you tonight are the November financials and the Revenue and Expenditure Summary Report. As you will note, the benchmark is 42% for the month. Revenues are at 36.7% and Expenditures at 43.2%."

Recreation Director Gary Colello reported that the ice-skating conditions at the Town Ice Rink are the best that they have been in years and hopes the weather holds up.

10. Old Business

a. Project Status Updates

There were no additional project status updates.

11. Treasurer's Warrants

Motion was made by Member Castleman-Ross to approve Treasurer's Warrants numbered 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, and 265; second from Member Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose

12. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

13. Dates for the Next Select Board Meetings

January 23, 2024 @ 5PM (Regular Meeting) / February 13, 2024 @ 5PM (Regular Meeting)

14. Adjourn

Motion was made by Vice-Chair McHatton to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 P.M.; second from Member Murphy. 5 approve/0 oppose

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie L. Chadbourne, Town Clerk