

SELECT BOARD MEETING
Town of Southwest Harbor
Town Office & Via Zoom*
6:00 p.m. ~ Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** All present. Chair Carolyn Ball, Vice Chair Natasha Johnson, George Jellison Jr., Jim Vallette, Luke Damon, Manager Marilyn Lowell via Zoom, and Town Clerk Jennifer LaHaye.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Jellison motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Johnson. Vote: 5-0

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Request of the Town Manager for a motion "to approve the minutes of..."*

A. November 22, 2022 – SB Meeting

Johnson motioned to approve the minutes of November 22, 2022, Select Board Meeting minutes. Seconded by Vallette. Vote: 5-0.

5. **APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:**

Town Payables W#59

Conservation Commission W# 1213

School Payroll W# 57

Main St. Project W#60

Trust & Agency W#55,56,58

Town Payroll W# 1201,1208,1215

Johnson motioned to approve the warrants as presented. Seconded by Damon. Vote: 5-0.

6. **APPOINTMENT:** *Request of the Town Clerk for a motion to appoint Priscilla Ksionzyk to the Planning Board Committee.*

Priscilla Ksionzyk was present at the meeting. Ksionzyk came forward and noted her husband Jack was also on this board. She is looking to fill the remainder term that recently came open after Christopher Blain resigned from his term, ending in June of 2024. Johnson expressed concern that Ksionzyk's husband was also on the Planning Board; if both were to get sick, this could impact votes needed to have enough for a quorum. Ball expressed she was concerned. She noted this committee has had a problem with numbers and having enough votes to move business forward.

Jellison motioned to appoint Priscilla Ksionzyk as a member of Planning Board Committee for the remainder of a five-year term effective until June 30, 2024. Seconded by Vallette. Vote: 3-2. Johnson and Ball did not approve.

7. REGULAR BUSINESS:

A. **Short Term Rentals:** *Request of Beth Dilley to voice concerns & discuss short term rentals in town.*

Beth Dilley feels the community has changed drastically and advised there are now new weekly rentals within her neighborhood. Dilley expressed concern the population within the Pemetec school has gone down, volunteers are not around to join the Fire Department, Library, or any of the town committees. Dilley wishes to know what the Board has done thus far or is going to do about the issue of short-term weekly rentals. Ball noted that they would be discussing this further into the agenda and encouraged her to stay. Vallette noted that housing was a topic identified in the mini strategic plans.

B. **Street Signs/North Causeway Lane:** *Request of Town Manager to discuss North Causeway Lane Street signs on behalf of Ron Scott.*

Discussion took place around the town's right of way at the end of North Causeway Lane. There could be obstruction in allowing access to the water. Harbor Committee member Anne Napier noted the Harbor Committee has had a concern with this in the past and wishes the Board to look further into this. Likely a survey would need to be completed. Members would like to gather more information and further discuss in the future.

No action taken at this time.

C. **Climate to Thrive/Community Reconciliation Partner Program:** *Request of Carolyn Ball for Natasha Johnson and Johannah to present more information on the Climate to Thrive/Reconciliation Partner Program.*

Johanna with A Climate to Thrive was present in the audience. Johanna explained the process and noted that their program was a state program helping municipalities in the grant writing process. The next grant cycle is in 2023. She noted the only time there is a match involved is with specific grants.

Johnson motioned to continue to grow our relationship with A Climate to Thrive and start the enrollment process as the first step. Seconded by Damon. Vote: 4-1. Jellison voted against.

Further Discussion: Johanna clarified being part of the partnership is being eligible. Vallette noted he would like to have more information and see if there are steps that have already been completed.

D. Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force: *Request of Carolyn Ball to review final update of the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force.*

Members of the board reviewed the final document the task force final update. Several members had questions related to the recommendations. Vallette expressed this was a 'mixed bag, with a broad vision' Damon expressed he would like to see more clarification surrounding the amount of summer residences that can be used for short term rentals. Jellison feels the topic of work force housing strayed away from the task at hand. He expressed concern for the language 'shall' and 'must.' He does not believe this is appropriate language for a comprehensive plan. He noted it is more of a guide, not a mandate. Members discussed modifications to the update, and how this could be done. Jellison suggested the board make suggestions of revisions and come back to the table to make necessary changes. Damon proposed to continue to move forward, and members approve the Coastal Erosion, and Storm Water runoff.

Damon motioned to adopt the Comprehensive Plan Update 2023 from Climate Change forward as it is laid out. Seconded by Johnson. Vote: 5-0.

Outcome: The Select Board will meet on Thursday December 29, 2022, to discuss modifications to the recommendations, and make any necessary revisions.

8. MANAGER REPORT: Please see attached report.

9. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Trees on Clark Point Road
- Causeway Lane – further research for right of way.
- Harbormaster Shack, funding, past plans.
- Solid Waste Task Force update.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Johnson motioned to hold the next Select Board meeting Thursday, December 29, 2022. Seconded by Damon. Vote: 5-0.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. Personnel Matter:** *Request of the Town Manager for the Select Board to find that public discussion of this personnel matters could be reasonably expected to cause damage to the employees' reputation and/or to violate the employee's right to privacy, and therefore, to go into executive session to discuss the employment, appointment, assignment, duties, promotion, demotion, compensation, evaluation, disciplining, resignation, and/or dismissal of an individual or group of public officials, appointees or employees, as permitted by 1 MRSA 405.6.A.*

Vallette motioned to enter into executive session and to find that public discussion of this personnel matters could be reasonably expected to cause damage to the employees' reputation and/or to violate the employee's right to privacy, and therefore to go into executive session to discuss the employment, appointment, assignment, duties, promotion, demotion, compensation, evaluation, disciplining, resignation, and/or dismissal of an individual or group of public officials, appointees or employees, as permitted by 1 MSRA 405.6.A. Seconded by Damon. Vote: 5-0. Time 8:05p.m.

Johnson motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:37p.m. Seconded by Vallette. Vote: 5-0.

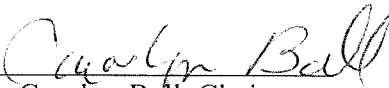
12. ADJOURNMENT:

Jellison motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40p.m. Seconded by Vallette. Vote: 5-0.

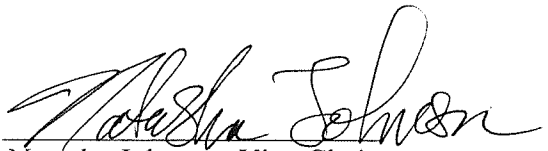
Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer E. LaHaye
Town Clerk

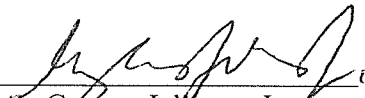
APPROVED




Carolyn Ball, Chair



Natasha Johnson, Vice Chair



George Jefferson, Jr.



James Vallette



Luke Damon