

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

May 20, 2025

1. Call to Order: 6:00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Doug Norman, Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Doug Norman, Chair, Mark Bradstreet Vice Chair, Steve Tanguay, and Sandra Otis-Anderson are all present. Wes Norton is excused.
4. Announcements: None
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Mark made a motion to accept the minutes for the May 6, 2025 Select Board meeting as written. Second by Sandra Vote : 4-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added 4 11th hour items to the agenda: Steve made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional 4 items added as 11th hour. Seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0
7. Public Comment:

Kim Yesis addressed communications surrounding real estate taxes regarding the proposed school budget and also what the Homestead Exemption will look like.

Harlan McLaughlin addressed the testing of the GAC site on June 2, 2025 at 11:00 am and thanked James for his work on this issue.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Enhancement Committee: Bottle Redemption point of collection at the Transfer station. Motion: Sandra made a motion to share the bottles between the Searsport Food Cupboard and the Enhancement Committee with a collection every other week with the stipulation that they pick the bottles up. Seconded by Mark. Vote: 4-0-0.
 - b. Policy on Appointed Department Head Hiring: Steve made a motion to table this discussion to the next workshop, seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0
9. New Business:
 - a. RSU 20 Election Warrant: Steve made a motion to approve the RSU 20 warrant for 2025, seconded by Mark Vote: 4-0-0
 - b. Cemetery Equipment: Steve made a motion to authorize the town manager to purchase an enclosed trailer and new zero turn mower from the cemetery reserve account and further authorize the transfer of funds from the cemetery trust account to the cemetery reserve account for the total amount not to exceed \$9,000.00. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 4-0-0.
9. 11th Hour
 - a. Workshop: Mark made a motion to set a workshop on June 3rd at 4:00 pm prior to the Select Board meeting. Seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0
 - b. Staff Training: Sandra made a motion to close the town office on June 20th for the annual safety training of staff, seconded by Steve. Vote: 4-0-0
 - c. Trash Cans: Mark made a motion to appropriate up to \$2,500.00 from the highway reserve funds to supply Searsport with planters and necessary trash cans, seconded by Sandra Vote: 4-0-0
 - d. Authorize Assistance in Applying for Seawall Project Permitting: Steve made a motion to Authorize the town manager to spend up to \$4,000.00 for assistance in starting the permitting process for the seawalls at both Mosman Park and Hamilton Wharf to be taken from the recreation infrastructure reserve. Seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0

10. Correspondence:

- a. Annual report from Sweetser
- b. Coastal Mountains Land Trust's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.
- c. DEP Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and Maine Waste Discharge License and final permit for GAC
- d. DEP – Oil discharge prevention and pollution control renewal license for Sprague Operating Resources, LLC
- e. Four notices from the Code Office for new addresses in town.

12. Treasurer's Warrant. Mark made a motion to accept the Treasurer's warrant pending signatures by the Select Board. Seconded by Sandra Vote : 4-0-0

13. Department Head Reports: Police, Library, Ambulance and Fire Department Head reports are available. Steve made a motion to accept the department head reports as presented, seconded Doug Vote: 4-0-0

14. Select Board Report:

Mark is pleased with the lines that are being painted on main street.

Sandra mentioned how clean the downtown area looks and the senior drop in event on Wednesday at the Community Center from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Steve talked about the street party on Sunday May 24th from 1-3 downtown with food trucks, ice cream, games and live music. On June 2nd from 8-1 there will be about 80-100 students grades 3-12 from Searsport High School working on the clam reseeding project on the causeway to Sears Island.

Doug thanked the enhancement committee for all their work with the flowers and planters around town. He is also very happy with the line painting but is concerned about the location of the crosswalks. He would like one by Mt. Ephriam Road.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment:

Janine Laveway asked for an update to improvements at the community center, specifically the bathrooms. James has talked to a couple of contractors but waiting for the audit because it is still not settled what the money is for that building yet. She inquired if anyone has knowledge of a firm by the name of Firmatek 3D mapping solutions and any work that has been authorized. Steve mentioned that there have been a couple of engineers studying the Mill Stream Dam and offered to reach out and see if there is a connection.

A.J. Koch asked about the message sign at the fire station. Barney Hose has looked into a digital sign. The letters for the existing sign have fiberglass splinters. He inquired about a cost share with the town for a replacement. James stated that any cost share would be welcomed but the town will own it, much like the planters and trash cans purchased with enhancement committee recommendations and funds.

A.J. notified James and the board that there will need to be additional welding done on the fire truck which will need additional approval.

Doug inquired about the condemned property on Route One. The Code Enforcement Office and James met with the land owner. A deal was worked out with Bobby Seekins and From Above Ministry to use the town dumpster and equipment. There is real progress.

James updated the status of the Searsport Sign on the West Side of town. A new one is being made out of updated materials which should last longer. Steve asked if the enhancement committee can landscape around it once it's replaced. The sign on the East Side of town has been inspected as well and found to remain in good shape.

Sandra asked for an update on the information booth. It has been raised and the contractor has been engaged. He expects to have it done as soon as possible. Phyllis Sommers has requested that it be moved 3 feet closer to route one.

16. Executive Session M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and Poverty abatement requests) and M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (A) Confidential (Personnel Matters to discuss Officer

Retention) Mark made a motion at 6:40 pm to leave regular session and enter into executive session under M.R.S.A 1 § 405 (6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and Poverty Abatement requests). And M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (A) Confidential (Personnel Matters to discuss Officer Retention) Seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0

Mark made a motion at 6:58 to exit executive session and return to regular session, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-0

17. Decisions from Executive Session: There were no poverty abatement requests. Mark made a motion to authorize \$40.00 an hour to be the total pay for the resource officer at the school and the benefit package question be moved to the next workshop and the retirement question to the next regular or special town meeting. Motion was seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0

18. Adjournment: Sandra made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm seconded by Steve. Vote: 4-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 6/3/2025