

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

May 7, 2024

1. Call to Order: 6:00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Mark Bradstreet, Vice Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Doug Norman, Chair, Mark Bradstreet Vice Chair, Steve Tanguay, Wes Norton and Sandra Otis-Anderson are all present. Mark Bradstreet chaired the meeting.
4. Announcements: None
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Wes Norton made a motion to accept the minutes for the April 16, 2024 select board meeting as written. Second by Steve Tanguay Vote : 4-0-1 Doug Abstained
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added the following 11th hour items to the agenda: Local food and community self governance ordinance, Letters of support for State Grant applications and a letter to the Commissioner of MDOT inviting him back to give an update on the proposed off shore wind project. There will be no executive session or results from that session on the agenda. Motion: Sandra Otis-Anderson made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional items added as 11th hour. Seconded by Doug Norman Vote: 5-0-0
7. Public Comment: None
8. Old Business:
 - a. Annual Election of Officers for Select Board. The floor was opened for nominations for Chair. Mark Bradstreet nominated Doug Norman, Seconded by Steve Tanguay. There being no further nominations they were closed. Vote: 5-0-0. The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair. Sandra Otis-Anderson nominated Mark Bradstreet, seconded by Doug Norman. There being no further nominations they were closed Vote: 5-0-0
9. New Business:
 - b. Planning Board Resignation: Keith Ritchie has resigned from the Planning Board. Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to accept with regret Keith's resignation, seconded by Steve Tanguay Vote: 5-0-0. Doug Norman asked Janine Laveway to write him a letter of appreciation for his decades of service. James mentioned the Planning Boards decision to hold regular training workshops in addition to their regularly held monthly meetings.
 - c. Town Clerk Resignation: Lynn Roberts has resigned her position as Town Clerk. Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to accept with regret Lynn Robert's resignation and wish her well in her new position with the City of Bangor and authorize the Town Manager to seek applicants for her replacement as Town Clerk. Seconded by Sandra Otis-Anderson Vote: 5-0-0
 - d. Select Board Meeting Date: James will be on vacation on May 21, 2024. It is his recommendation to skip this meeting altogether. Board Members will need to sign the treasurer's warrant with the finance director that week however. Mark Bradstreet made a motion to cancel the May 21st select board meeting and workshop and move everything to the June 4, 2024 regular meeting with a scheduled workshop that same day at 5:00 pm. Seconded by Sandra Otis-Anderson. Vote: 5-0-0
10. 11th Hour:
 - a. Local Food and Community Self-Governance Ordinance: Local Farm Stand owners Raelene Dutton-Rogers and her husband Ray Rogers spoke in support of the ordinance. Motion: Steve Tanguay made a motion to table until the June 4, 2024 meeting, seconded by Doug Norman Vote: 5-0-0
 - b. Letter to MDOT Commissioner Van Note asking him to come and visit the town more and inform the town of the status of the proposed Off Shore Wind facility. The original announcement was

made by the Governor in 2020 and then Commissioner Van Note came to town once in 2022. Motion: Doug Norman made a motion to accept the concept of the letter with a few additional changes, seconded by Steve Tanguay Vote: 5-0-0

c. Request last week from the State for letters of support in their pursuit of grant money. One is for a port infrastructure development grant for preliminary engineering work and design in regards to the wind port design. The second request is for an application for the multimodal project discretionary grant fund. James reported that these grants have been ramped up or supercharged by the President. Two years worth of grant funds have been put into one and the deadline was shortened for application. James told the governor's energy office that the select board would be meeting on Tuesday May 7th. The deadline was Monday May 6th. They still asked for letters of support for the pursuit of the grants. The letters were discussed and crafted in the workshop held prior to the meeting. James read the draft into the record. A long discussion was held. Motion: Doug Norman made a motion to approve both letters with the recommended changes, Seconded by Sandra Otis-Anderson. Vote: 3-2-0 Doug Norman, Mark Bradstreet and Sandra Otis-Anderson voted in favor of the motion. Wes Norton and Steve Tanguay voted against the motion. The letters will be created by James Gillway and signed by Chair Doug Norman.

d. Video Recordings: Ned Lightner has stepped forward and offered his help in recording meetings and posting them as a loop on the tv station. The Controller for the video/tv system cameras does not work. A replacement is being investigated. There are funds available for purchases and repairs. The plan is to begin recording meetings within the next several weeks.

11. Correspondence:

a. Letter to a resident of Mt. Ephraim road from the CEO putting them on notice of their unlicensed junk yard. If it is not cleaned up within 120 days they face up to a \$5,000.00 a day fine. The CEO did a site visit and informed the owner this will be enforced.

b. Letter from Attorney Jeremy Marden notifying the town that all the charges against Andrew Webster have been dismissed.

c. Letter from The Maine Department of Marine Resources notifying the town of a shoreland survey from May to November. They will be looking closely at the shoreline for possible sources of pollution.

d. Letter from AARP thanking the town for the use of the Community Center to conduct free tax preparation assistance.

e. Two letters from Charter Communications with updates to programming changes.

f. Letter from The Maine Municipal Association outlining the process for nominations to the 2024-2026 Legislative Policy Committee.

g. Letter from CEO regarding his notification to the owners of a new sign on the West side of town that does not currently have a permit.

12. Treasurer's Warrant. Sandra Otis-Anderson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's warrant pending signatures by the Select Board. Seconded by Steve Tanguay Vote 5-0-0

13. Town Manager's Report: James read his report into the record.

14. Select Board Report: Doug Norman talked about how grateful he is to be able to return. He thanked the board and community for all the wonderful support he has received during his recovery. He thanked the board for re-electing him as chair. Sandra Otis-Anderson stated how great it is to see Doug back and reminded everyone of the next Senior Drop In that will be held on Wednesday May 15th at the community center. She mentioned the road work continues to be great. Steve Tanguay wanted to note that tonight's split vote is the first one in five years. He is thankful for the chair's leadership stating that he always gives each member an opportunity to speak and discuss every challenge that arises and it has led to a lot of good things for Searsport. He welcomed Doug back. He mentioned several upcoming events in town. On the 16th of May there is a free community pot luck supper with the band Hot Suppers at Searsport Shores

Campground. On May 31st there is a Free Street Party at the Mermaid Plaza with a band and Food Trucks. On Mother's Day May 12 there is a concert at the Searsport Congregational Church with the Sea Strings. It is by donation. There was recently a community cleanup and he thanked Portable Pie for doing breakfast, and HOBBA for providing lunch. Wes reported that the cruise port committee will not meet in the month of May. The next scheduled meeting is on June 3, 2024. They meet the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in Union Hall. He welcomed Doug back and congratulated him on his reelection for another 3 year term and his election as chair. He thanked and commended the volunteers and employees in town who are doing all of the continuing education and trainings. He also mentioned how nice it is to have the stairs leading to the beach at Mosman Park repaired.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: None

16. Adjournment: Sandra Otis-Anderson made a motion to adjourn at 7:07 pm. Second by: Wes Norton. Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: June 4, 2024