

Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, March 20th, 2023
Minutes

Called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance-** E. Best; J. Dow; S. Miller; B. Smythe; S. Dooley; N. Nadeau, Town Administrator; B. Farnham, CEO; J. Milliken, B. Frind, J. Young, B. Bowden, K. Frangoulis, B. Wooten, T. Bjorkman, J. Hart (remote) and the press.
2. **Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes of March 6th and 13th, 2023-** S. Miller moved to approve the minutes as distributed. J. Dow seconded. Approved 5-0
3. **Public Comment-** B. Frind asked the two Select Board members who did not support the retroactive language, for an explanation. S. Miller explained that he is for deploying cost effective solar as rapidly as we reasonably can, and he feels like the proposed project does just that. S. Miller and S. Dooley both feel that it is bad practice for a town to be retroactively rescinding permits that have been issued. The retroactive language precedent, if set, could apply to any project that gets a permit from the town. The permittee would need to wait the 45 day period to see if their permit will be withdrawn. J. Young expressed his concern about the solar language that was proposed in 2020, and the lack of proof reading which provided SolAmerica with a loophole to build in Blue Hill. He feels as though the town is financially equipped to go to Superior Court to fight SolAmerica on the retroactive language if it is passed in the April town meeting and made effective towards the SolAmerica project. J. Hart offered his knowledge as a resource to the community in hopes of answering community members' questions and concerns. He has been a service electrician for Revision Energy for 8 years. J. Hart expressed that he feels there are better locations for big arrays than the currently proposed location and our grid here in Blue Hill is not ideal for this type of project.

New Business:

1. **Shellfish Warden Discussion** – J. Dow introduced the “Clam Master and the Fisheries Restoration Guru” of Penobscot, Bailey Bowden. B. Bowden brought to J. Dow’s attention the lack of a Shellfish Warden in Blue Hill which puts the Town’s Shellfish Ordinance at risk. B. Bowden explained the benefits of having a Shellfish Warden. Ecologically speaking, the town has the opportunity to manage their resource, which he feels is the best option for any town. The Town would be able to monitor the flats, opposed to having them under state control. He used Castine as an example of a town being under state control and the rules on harvesting shellfish are limited. Digging can be done 24/7 with only a 2 inch minimum size requirement which diminishes the resources quickly. Under state control the flats are open to diggers from all over, with that you find an abundance of garbage left behind, trespassing, and parking wherever is feasible. Complaint calls would go straight to the Select Board or Town Office staff and when a town has a Shellfish Warden, they should be responsible for screening those calls. S. Miller asked what the normal duties of a Shellfish Warden are, B. Bowden suggested looking on the Department of Marine Resources website for a job description. B. Bowden explained that a lot of towns depend on the shorefront landowners to give the Shellfish Wardens an alert when folks are using their property to access the shoreline. Most shorelines are not accessible to the public which makes patrolling difficult. In July of 2022 Steve Bechard was appointed the Shellfish Warden for the Town of Blue Hill by the Select Board. Communication between Steve and the Town lapsed in July and he was never officially sworn in. N. Nadeau will facilitate the completion of Steve Bechard’s appointment as the Blue Hill Shellfish Warden. There was discussion

regarding the restoration of fishways and where current fishways are within the Town of Blue Hill.

2. **Parker Point Discussion** – Tom Bjorkman expressed his concerns regarding the location of his driveway and the “Hidden Drive” road sign that is approximately 300ft before his driveway. He would like to have another sign installed closer to the entrance of this driveway to hopefully get people’s attention. B. Smythe suggested that N. Nadeau and Ben Adams (Road Commissioner) go out and see if there is a good place to install a sign closer to the driveway. E. Best informed Mr. Bjorkman that the Select Board does not have the authority to install or change speed limits; he would have to contact MDOT (Maine Department of Transportation) regarding any request for a speed limit change. Mr. Bjorkman asked the Town to consider a sign that would bring more attention [to the driveway and curve] and make others more aware.
3. **Blue Hill Mountain Accessibility** – Chrissy Beardsley Allen from Blue Hill Heritage Trust (BHHT) would like to start making some of the trails on Blue Hill Mountain wheelchair accessible. E. Best felt that this would be a great idea but would want to make sure that the accessibility would not be wide enough that ATVs could travel it. The entrance is where the majority of the work would have to be done to make it wide enough for a wheelchair to get past. The gate poses no problem, but the rocks would have to be widened. The Board would like to ask Chrissy to come in and give more detail regarding the project.

Old Business:

1. **Town Meeting Moderator** – J. Milliken agreed to show up to the Town Hall on Friday, April 7th at 9:30 to be considered for nomination as the Town Meeting Moderator.

Administrator Business

1. **Tree Maintenance at the Park** – Landere Naisbitt from the BHHT contacted the Board about the availability of trees and shrubs to the Town to be used in the Town Park. E. Best suggested that N. Nadeau reach out to Don Paine who has a background in the naturalistic type of landscape to get a better idea of what trees should come down and good locations for the new trees. N. Nadeau will facilitate a meeting with Don to create a plan for the trees in the park; Phil Norris, Tree Warden, will be apprised of this project.
2. **Update on Town Hall work** – N. Nadeau gave an update on town hall improvements. Mainly Vinyl came and installed new windows in the Select Board room and storm doors in the CEO and Treasurer’s office. N. Nadeau reported that Brandon Atwood, owner of Compass Point Construction, has made great progress on the interior stairs and offices being built into the current downstairs office space.

Other Business

1. **Marine Floats Update** – There was conversation regarding the town floats from S. Miller. He reported there still has been no progress on sourcing a float installer, but that the harbor master was in the process of securing a quote for the ramp work at the South Blue Hill wharf.
2. **Updates/Reminders**
 - a. Comprehensive Plan Committee – Thursday, March 23rd @ 4pm
 - b. Solid Waste Committee meeting – Tuesday, March 28th @ 4pm

c. Select Board meeting – Monday, March 27th @ 5:30pm

Warrant signatures- Warrant signed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm