

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 11th, 2023**

Called the meeting to Order at 5:30pm

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance** – Board Members: E. Best, J. Dow, S. Miller & S. Dooley; Code Enforcement Officer, B. Farnham; Members of the Shaw Institute: Charlie Rolsky, Michelle Berger; Public: Jeff Milliken, Allan Kratz; Press: Michael Dickerson
2. **Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes for December 4th, 2023** – J. Dow moved to approve the minutes from the December 4th, 2023, meeting, S. Miller seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.
3. **Public Comment:** No public comment

Business

1. PFAS Study Proposal by The Shaw Institute – C. Rolsky and M. Berger presented to the Board the possibility of holding a free or low cost PFAS testing for the private wells of Blue Hill residents. This testing would provide residents with information to manage PFAS exposure from their drinking water and to understand the extent and severity of PFAS contamination in the town of Blue Hill. The Shaw Institute has worked with a company out of Chicago who does testing as a very inexpensive rate. Due to the work that the Shaw Institute has done in the past, they were asked to apply for grant through the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund to do a PFAS study in Blue Hill. The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund could provide majority of the funding, but it does require a match. A power study determines that the minimum number of tests that would have to be completed to get an accurate idea of PFAS levels would be 120 tests, S. Miller would like to have that minimum number of tests done be 200. Along with sampling private wells, the Shaw Institute would like to sample some streams and ponds in the town. The grant application, which would be submitted by the Shaw Institute, is due February 20th, 2024 and the grant is approval is in May of 2024.
2. Sea Loft – E. Best has reached out to someone to determine the building status and is waiting for a response.
3. Stream Crossing – The application for the municipal stream crossing grant is due January 19th, 2024. One of the engineers that J. Dow communicated with has done 3 other stream crossing projects in the area. The engineer that J. Dow has spoken with will send a proposal for the engineering by the end of this week. Majority of the work for this stream crossing project would have to be done this summer. The proposal for the grant does not have to be completed before January 19th, but the town would have to “commit” to the project.
4. Appointed positions – tabled
5. Approve proposed changes to employee policies –

Motion: S. Miller motioned to amend and adopt the Town of Blue Hill employee policies pursuant to the document distributed for this meeting, to be effective on January 1st, 2024. S. Dooley, seconded. Approved 4-0.

6. 2022 Audit –

Motion: S. Miller motioned to authorize Michelle Rockwell, as Town Treasurer, to execute the management representation letter provided by the Town’s auditors, provided she is comfortable that all of the representations to be made are accurate. J. Dow seconded. Approved 4-0.

7. Broadband Committee –

Motion: S. Miller motioned to disband the Blue Hill Broadband Committee, thanking the members of the committee for their service and success in helping to make broadband available throughout Blue Hill. J. Dow seconded. Approved 4-0.

Motion: S. Miller motioned to appoint Butler Smythe as the Town’s “Broadband Coordinator” for a term ending 12/31/2024, to act as an advisor to residents and others on how to benefit from broadband internet access at their residences and places of business, to assist them in navigating Fidium’s customer service function (as requested), and to report to the Select Board at least quarterly on any unresolved issues or other local broadband developments of which the Board should be aware. J. Dow seconded. Approved 4-0.

Other Business

Meeting Updates/Reminders (details on website)

- 12/18/23 Select Board Meeting
- 12/20/23 Climate Resilience Committee

Adjourn – Adjourned at 6:45pm. Approved 4-0.