

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, November 4, 2024
Minutes**

Called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Determine quorum and meeting attendance – E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, B. Adams, J. Dow, J. Atwell (Town Administrator - Remote), S. Lavallee (Town Clerk), Z. Pulitzer (Minute Taker).

Approval of Minutes

S. Miller motioned to approve the minutes of October 28, 2024, as edited; seconded by B. Adams. Vote passed 4/0.

Public Comments

No public comments

Business

1 Sealoft Update

E. Best table this another week.

2 Withdrawal from Tree Growth Status

The Board discussed the withdrawal from Tree Growth, a 2.15 acre parcel identified as Map 34 Lot 13 owned by Robert and Patricia Clapp. The Assessor's Agent calculation of a \$6,994 penalty was determined. S. Miller moved to accept removing the parcel from Tree Growth with the \$6,994 penalty; seconded by B. Adams. Vote passed 4/0.

3 Public Hearing

a. Marlintini's Grill, Incorporated - 5:45pm

The Board reviewed the renewal request for a Class A Restaurant Lounge, liquor license for Marlintini's Grill, Incorporated. S. Miller moved to approve the renewal as suggested; seconded by B. Adams. Vote passed 4/0.

4 Community Action Grant – Allen Kratz

After Allen Kratz's introduction to the Climate Resilience Partnership Grant at the October 28, 2024, Select Board Meeting, a formal request was made asking if Blue Hill will take on as Fiscal Agent and authorize the Climate Resilience Committee to work with other towns. He also stated the partnership will be pushed forward as part of the Blue Hill Tomorrow program where a coordinator will be needed to start the processes. He would like a declaration of participation from the town by December 17, 2024. The Board asked specifically about the required duties of the Fiscal Agent and what percentage of associated fees will be received. A. Kratz informed them a 3% administration fee will be received while the sole duty requirements to make payments from the grant proceeds. Reporting and other related duties would be handled by Kratz and the Climate Resilience Committee. S. Miller moved to endorse the partnership grant application and to have the Town act as the Fiscal Agent. He clarified that a 3% administration fee would be acceptable if

only check cutting duties are needed, while a 6% fee would be recommended if other duties were needed; seconded by B. Adams. Vote passed 4/0.

5 Parade Permit

A Parade Permit for a celebratory fire truck escort into town was requested if the boys' and/or girls' soccer teams win their prospective playoff games. J. Dow moved to grant the permit for the fire truck escort as requested; seconded by S. Miller. Vote passed 4/0.

6 Toddy Pond Dam - Update

S. Miller provided information surrounding the engagement letter between counsel Russell Pierce of Norman Hanson & DeTroy, and the towns with property at Toddy Pond. Gina Bushong from the Town of Orland gave him information regarding Bucksport retaining different counsel, Bernstein Shur (upon receiving a conflict waiver, since another Bernstein Shur attorney is representing Bucksport Mills).

A key issue was addressed regarding who will be responsible for covering legal costs. The four towns are seeking donations from property owners or anyone willing to contribute. S. Miller noted that Blue Hill's share of legal fees should be around 5%.

An interlocal agreement for the towns to jointly purchase and operate the dams was mentioned. Having a special taxation district would ensure that general taxpayers are not burdened with the full cost of purchasing and maintaining the dams. There is uncertainty how long it would take to pay off a purchase and what the ongoing maintenance costs are.

S. Miller commented that the application to abandon the dams was incomplete but was accepted by the State anyway and though an inspection of the dams was completed recently, including a diving inspection, the most recent report available is from 2021. Bucksport Mill will be holding a public "consultation" meeting in Bucksport on November 14 at 5:00pm.

S. Miller moved to have J. Atwell sign the engagement letter on the Town's behalf; seconded by B. Adams. Vote passed 4/0.

7 Animal Control Officer

The Town signed an agreement with Hancock County Animal Control Services through December 2024. J. Atwell reported that she spoke with Dan McKay, who serves as the area ACO (Animal Control Officer). He resides in Trenton and works with 11 towns, including Brooklin, Sedgwick, and Stonington. He proposed having a backup ACO which may save the town on expenses if minor issue calls came in. J. Atwell to confirm what the ACO qualifications are for such purposes and/or finding an ACO for 2025.

8 Supporting carbon fees – David Dietrich

David Deitrich provided answers on how Carbon Fee funds are allocated in the Canadian system as requested in the Select Board Meeting of October 28, 2024. He formally asked the Board to adopt a town Resolution supporting Carbon Fees. S. Miller suggested the residents should determine this adoption and this matter to be put on a Town Warrant as a referendum item for vote at the Friday portion of the April 2025 Town Meeting. J. Atwell and the Climate Resilience Committee will work on the wording of the referendum to present to the Board.

9 Traffic Ordinance

S. Miller distributed the draft traffic ordinance with additions to the section addressing the area between the Town Hall and Blue Hill Inn driveways stipulating only compact cars, which fit within the designated spaces outside the white “fog line”, will be allowed to park. The regulation also specifies a 30-foot restriction for parking in that area. In addition, it was noted that the ordinance should include a provision requiring motorists to be courteous to pedestrians, but only regulatory signs related to traffic flow needed to be formally included in the ordinance. The final decision on Mill Street was also discussed, with the plan being to establish a one-way traffic flow from Main Street to Angel Avenue. The Board will determine the appropriate signage for this change at a later date. S. Miller moved to adopt the traffic ordinance as distributed; seconded by B. Adams. Vote passed 4/0.

10 Christmas Tree Lighting – Date 12.13.14 @5pm

The Christmas Tree Lighting event has been scheduled for December 13 at 5:00 PM. Approval was granted for this date, and L. Sitzabee will meet with the Blue Hill Peninsula Chamber of Commerce to coordinate the event.

Other Business

-Mike Curtis’s inquiry from October 28, 204 regarding the purchase of a ROW raised questions about the land’s value. It is believed to be between \$27,000 and \$32,000. It would be beneficial to confirm this, E. Best will follow up with the Assessor's Agents.

– The Select Board meeting scheduled for November 11, 2024, will be held on November 12, 2024, at 4:00 pm so it won’t coincide with the Marine Resources Meeting.

Executive Session

J. Dow moved to enter the executive session at 6:33pm per 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(A) - Personnel Matter; seconded by B. Adams. Vote passed 4/0.

Executive session ended at 6:41pm

Back in Public Session:

S. Miller made a motion to allow J. Atwell to hire Dana Goettler as part-time Deputy Clerk subject to her satisfactory and reasonable effort to check references, conduct a background check and complete all onboarding requirements; B. Adams seconded. Vote passed 4/0.

Adjournment

S. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm. subject to signing Disbursement Warrants; B. Adams seconded. Vote passed 4/0.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.