

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, November 18, 2024
Minutes**

Called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

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

Approval of Minutes

S. Miller moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2024, as edited and to table the minutes of November 15, 2024; J. Wooten seconded. Vote passed 5/0.

Public Comments

-Randall Curtis from the Blue Hill Climate Resilience Committee introduced information on the Wildfire Planning Grant where 3 oversight persons are to be nominated for the 27-person project team. John Chapman, Alice Cockerham, Stefan Blanchard are parties who may be interested. 9 Towns are participating, with Brooksville being the lead. E. Best asked if a formal appointment was requested of the Board. Allen Kratz, the Project Manager stated this was informational only. S. Miller asked what the time commitments of the oversight committee would be stating that the interested parties should know what is expected. A. Kratz stated meetings should be held every other month for the next 18.

-Allen Kratz asked the Board to comment on the GEI Climate Vulnerability Study via a resolution. A 72-page report will be presented to the public along with the resolution that would show Blue Hill's appreciation of all the work that has been completed on the 16-month assessment. This Resolution would then allow the Project Manager (A. Kratz) to complete his final report. He asked if the Resolution could be presented at the December 2, 2024, 5:30pm meeting. The Board suggested that a press release prior to the meeting would help the visibility of the study. Leila Pike from GEI will be visiting the pilot project site on Curtis Cove Rd, Blue Hill, at 3:30pm prior to the meeting.

Business

1 Sealoft Update

This was tabled until next week.

2 Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance

Phil Norris, the Blue Hill Tree Warden, introduced the Board to an updated Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance draft. Along with Marechal Brown, Scott Blanchard and Barbara Bramble, they had been meeting weekly since the 2024 Town Meeting with a key goal being to amend the sections regarding managing pests and trees. The proposed amendment would legalize the use of pesticides for specific purposes under the authority of the tree warden. B. Bramble recapped the actual

changes, most being language, formatting, and non-substantial verbiage. This included removing extraneous material from the ordinance, adding appendices with resources such as lists of recommended products, educational references, and a "Frequently Asked Questions" section for clarity. The committee also referred to other town ordinances, conducted their own research, and used information from MAFKA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association). A side-by-side comparison between the existing Ordinance and the updated draft was created to help the Board view the changes.

A key change involving section E is where subsections within E were taken out and put into more appropriate parts of the Ordinance and the remaining verbiage being in list form. "Pest Emergencies" being one, was moved into another section, clarifying what constitutes an emergency and the use of an accompanying waiver form. A new Section F clarifies the waiver procedure. Emergencies will be handled by the public health officer and not the Code Enforcement Officer as stated incorrectly in the prior Ordinance.

B. Bramble asked the Board about the process of getting the updated Ordinance ready for the 2025 Town Meeting. S. Miller stated after the ordinance is approved, it must be sent out within 70 days. One of his main concerns with both the existing and revised versions is that the list of permitted substances includes many items that are unclear or unknown to the public. He also suggested that the appendices should be separated from the ordinance to ensure that they are seen as references or additional information, rather than part of the official ordinance. This would make it easier to update without requiring a town vote.

The ordinance will not limit the tree warden's ability to use pesticides in managing issues such as the brown tail moth, elm disease, and emerald ash borer, if they are necessary. The group plans to reconvene in January and set a date for further discussion in February. The committee also reviewed the ordinance in place for the city of Howell, which established a council and a group of people available to answer questions and serve as resources. They plan to suggest a similar model for Blue Hill.

S. Miller suggested if the updated Ordinance stated what pesticides Blue Hill businesses could sell, it would make it easier for a resident to know they are meeting Ordinance requirements just by purchasing pesticides locally.

3 Review Appointed Positions

This was tabled until next week. J. Atwell will update and resend information to the Board.

4 Security System for Certain Town Facilities

The Board discussed adding cameras to certain town facilities, particularly in an area where several vandalism incidents have occurred, the town park. Considered options mentioned were trail cameras, with and without web-based subscription service. A more affordable, basic trail camera costs about \$216, while one that includes a subscription service and enhanced features, around \$500.

S. Miller moved to the town to purchase up to 3 basic trail cameras with a total budget of up to \$500; B. Adams seconded. Vote passed 5/0.

Other Business

- E. Best mentioned the American Legion asked if the \$1,000 due to be received by the Town was missed from the 2024 Town Meeting Warrant. S. Miller will look at the budget believing the money was allocated just grouped into another expense category.

- E. Best received an Abatement for Map 011 Lot 015 Brad Emerson: The Assessor Agents recommended a reduction in assessed value for both land and buildings, with a \$513.63 calculated monetary reduction. This was an oversight on the part of the agents and had been revalued prior to the commitment of taxes. B. Adams moved to accept Abatement as stated; S. Miller seconded. Vote passed 5/0.

- E. Best received an Abatement for Map 039 Lot 049a Timoth Peper and Alexandra Weil: The Assessor Agents recommended a reduction in assessed value for land only due to non-view of Morgan Bay, with a \$539.00 calculated monetary reduction. S. Miler moved to accept Abatement as stated; B. Adams seconded. Vote passed 5/0.

- J. Atwell asked the Board to consider a timeline for review of the first draft of the 2025 Budget. The Board stated a 6-week time frame to discuss and draft the warrant article should be enough. J. Dow asked about informing the Blue Hill Budget Committe on this and reminding the Board of an open spot on their committee.

Executive Session

J. Dow moved to enter the executive session at 6:47pm per 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(A)- Personnel Matter; S. Miller seconded. Vote passed 5/0.

Executive Session ended at 7:42pm.

Back in Public Session no actions were taken.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm pending the signing of the disbursement warrants.

The disbursement warrants were signed.