

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025
Minutes**

Call to Order: 3:00 PM.

Attendance/Quorum

J. Dow (Chair Pro-Tem), S. Miller, B. Adams, J. Wootten, J. Atwell (Town Administrator), D. Goettler (Minute Taker).

Approval of Minutes

S. Miller moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2025, as amended. J. Wootten seconded; vote passed 4/0.

Public Comment

A member of the public asked several questions regarding the movement to have five towns take over ownership of the Toddy Pond and Alamoosook Lake dams. S. Miller informed him that the five towns bordering the lakes (Orland, Surry, Penobscot, Bucksport, and Blue Hill, aided by the Toddy Pond and Alamoosook Lake Associations) are seeking to assume ownership of the dams as an alternative to letting them be declared abandoned and torn down, thereby draining the ponds. The matter will not be ready to be voted upon at the 2025 Town Meeting but will hopefully be on the referendum ballot during the November 2025 election.

Business

1. Abatement – Map 12 Lot 10

Meredith Richardson, owner of the lot in question, told the Board that his ~1/3 acre lot is valued at more than twice the rate of other ~1/3 acre lots in his neighborhood and that, after discussing the matter with Blue Hill's assessor's agents, he still did not understand the reason for the discrepancy. He was previously granted a partial abatement, though the taxable value is still higher than seems reasonable to him. S. Miller agreed to invite one of the assessor's agents to the Select Board meeting on March 17, 2025, to explain how they calculated the lot's value. M. Richardson also informed the Board that the hedge on his property, whose overgrowth blocks a sidewalk near George Stevens Academy, is scheduled to be trimmed on Wednesday, March 12, 2025; he also noted that the hedge is older than the sidewalk.

2. Town Hall Rental Agreement

Amanda Woog has requested the use of the theater above the town office for a meeting associated with George Stevens Academy. The Board had no objection and agreed that, since the event is for educational purposes, there will be no rental fee.

3. Plowing Payment Request

J. Atwell received an email from Ben Astbury requesting that the final payment of the current contract, due on May 1, 2025, be paid instead on April 1, 2025 due to the current uncertainty about whether or not his contract will be renewed. J. Atwell recommended splitting the difference by paying on April 14, 2025. The Board questioned why he could

need the money early since his contract does not expire until May; J. Atwell agreed to request further clarification from B. Astbury.

4. Set Meeting Date – Warrant Hearing & Resident Budget Review

S. Miller will present the budget and hold hearings on referendum items on March 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM, in the theater above the town office. The comprehensive plan review meeting will take place on March 20, 2025, at 6:30 PM, at the Consolidated School. J. Atwell will place notes in the newspaper to inform the public of the dates of the comprehensive plan review meeting, Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance hearing, budget review meeting, carbon fee warrant article hearing, and GSA excess spending warrant article hearing.

5. Bake Sale Request

A representative of Mountain Rebekah Lodge #87 has requested permission to host a bake sale downstairs in the Town Hall during secret ballot voting on Friday, April 4, 2025. The Board had no objection but requested that J. Atwell make it clear that the Lodge will be responsible for all materials, setup, and cleanup.

Other Business

J. Atwell confirmed that all of the posted roads – all Town roads except Beech Hill Road – now have appropriate signage. Mountain Road is also expected not to need to be posted next winter. J. Atwell will update the website to clarify which roads are and are not posted. The Board agreed that reports of violations should be passed to Morgan Lawson, and that overweight vehicles that need to use posted roads will be made to pay a bond in case of damage to the road.

Adjournment

S. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:06 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants. B. Adams seconded; vote passed 4/0.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.