

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 11, 2025
Minutes**

Call to Order: 5:32 PM.

Attendance/Quorum

E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, B. Adams, A. Woog, D. Goettler (Town Clerk, Minute Taker).

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the minutes of July 28, 2025. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 3/0 with two abstentions to approve the minutes of August 7, 2025.

Public Comment

A representative of the committee that hosted the Maritime Heritage Festival on Saturday, August 9, 2025, reported that the Festival was a success and that the committee has already submitted a town property use request to repeat the event on August 15, 2026.

Several residents of Woods Point Road expressed concern about the Town's plan to repave the street and the risk to several old pine trees close to the street. B. Adams agreed to walk the site and discuss the trees in question with the residents.

Business

1. Fire Station Relocation – Update

The Special Town Meeting to authorize the purchase of GSA land was scheduled for Sunday, August 24, 2025, at 5:00 PM. The information session was scheduled for August 21, 2025, at 6:30 PM. Both will take place in the auditorium above the Town Office. S. Miller and J. Chapman reported work on an FAQ webpage and A. Woog has drafted an informational letter to the editor to be published in the Weekly Packet. The Board discussed means of filling an unbiased committee to plan the use of related unused land. S. Miller sent inquiries to two banks regarding the terms of loans and has received one response; the Board discussed how to respond to the requirement to produce audited financial statements in a period of time that the Town's contracted auditors seem unable to achieve.

2. WWTP Bid Package Comments

S. Miller will send in his comments.

3. Property Tax Abatement Request (Blue Hill Inn)

The Blue Hill Inn requested the abatement of future interest accrued on 2025 taxes to allow them to pay over a longer time period without penalty. The Board agreed that, since reassessments were not performed this year, the property assessment should not be a surprise and any installment payments should be made ahead, rather than behind, schedule. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to deny Blue Hill Inn an abatement of taxes or interest for the 2025 tax season. E. Best will draft them a response letter.

4. Town Hall Signs

S. Miller received two complaints from residents regarding recent protests on the Town Hall lawn, one regarding an ambiguously attended sign and the other regarding protestors distracting traffic.

Functional Area Reports

1. Animal Control Officer

J. Wootten is waiting on a reply to an email and expects to have the matter settled within the week.

Other Business

A. Dixon, the Town attorney, clarified the promise of pro bono defense of an ordinance prohibiting industrial-scale aquaculture in Blue Hill's waters.

A. Woog received a request to authorize the erection of a summit sign at the peak of Blue Hill Mountain. The Board expressed doubt that the peak is Town land, suspecting that Blue Hill Heritage Trust owns it instead.

The warranty period for the recent Mountain Road repair work will be ending soon; B. Adams will follow up with the contractor on completing the handful of outstanding items.

Executive Session

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to enter executive session per 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A) - Personnel Matter at 6:39 PM. Executive session ended at 7:30 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.