

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 25, 2025
Minutes**

Call to Order: 5:30 PM.

Attendance/Quorum

S. Miller (Chair Pro-Tem), B. Adams, A. Woog, J. Wootten (arrived during public comment period), D. Goettler (Town Clerk, Minute Taker).

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 2/0 with one abstention to approve the minutes of August 18, 2025.

Public Comment

A member of the public asked about ensuring that Town Office staff was appropriately trained and certified to run the state election in November and was informed that the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk will be in training for the remainder of the week. She also asked about the status of the Blaze noise complaints and was told that the Code Enforcement Officer will be issuing a notice of violation and beginning to collect fines. Two members of the public also nominated themselves to participate in the potentially upcoming committee to plan changes to traffic flow.

J. Dow asked whether or not the Town was ever appropriately reimbursed for the Property Tax Stabilization Act; a final answer will be given following the finalization of the 2023 audit. He also stated that the Nub has been receiving more visitors than its parking area can handle. There was some discussion about the status of the eagle nesting site sign intended to be posted on the Nub. The present members of the Select Board had no objection to moving ahead with the current draft of the sign but that there might be some further investigation underway from the individual who first brought the subject to the board's attention.

A member of the public reported on a several-hour concert at Blaze on Friday, August 22, 2025, that inhibited her ability to sleep.

A member of the public asked about plans to use the lot on South Street and was told that there are no specific plans yet and that the Board plans to solicit public input before arriving at a recommendation.

Business

1. Blue Hill Public Library Liquor License Application

The Blue Hill Public Library applied for a one-day liquor license for a fundraising event hosted on October 4, 2025. All music will be indoors, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to grant the Blue Hill Public Library's Special Event Liquor License.

2. Special Town Meeting Results/Next Steps

S. Miller thanked A. Woog, the volunteers, D. Goettler, and George Stevens Academy for their support in running an unusually complicated Special Town Meeting.

The land purchase closing was scheduled for September 5, 2025, and S. Miller has received two loan proposals from Bar Harbor Bank and Trust and First National Bank. Both offered \$1,200,000 5-year interest-only prepayable loans, at 5.13% (actual/365) from Bar Bank and Trust and 5.51% (actual/360) from First National Bank. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to accept Bar Harbor Bank and Trust's proposal.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to authorize A. Woog to sign such documents as may be required to affect the closing to the extent that the required signatures have not already been authorized by the Town.

A member of the public indicated her interest in joining the design committee for the new Public Safety Building and the Board outlined its initial thoughts about how such a committee might be formed.

3. Liquor License Hearing – Arborvine

The hearing was opened. No public comments were made in favor of or opposition to the renewal. The hearing was closed. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to grant Arborvine's Liquor License renewal.

4. Parking Ticket – Request for Relief

The Board agreed to table a decision on granting the requested relief pending a better understanding of where the vehicle was parked and the current status of signage. They agreed to ask future ticket issuers to take photographs of the parking violations in question and to work toward bringing Town signage in line with ordinance requirements.

5. Toddy Pond Dam Update

Under recently passed legislation, all Towns that are planning on participating in the ownership of the Toddy Pond Dam will vote on an article to assume ownership and allocate funds for the upkeep of the Dam during the November 2025 State Election. It has also been discovered that Bucksport Mill, the current owner, requires the consent of Bucksport Generation to abandon or transfer ownership of the Dam, which has not been granted. The article for the November election is therefore likely to only ask whether the Towns support the formation of the District intended to assume ownership and allocate a small amount of funds. A public information meeting and public hearing will be held in the Gordon Emerson Auditorium on September 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

6. WWTP Upgrade – Equipment Purchase Request

Olver Associates Inc. requested authorization to place an order for a high tide pump according to a bid of approximately \$185,600. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to authorize S. Miller to sign a Notice of Award granting the purchase to the bidder.

Other Business

The Deputy Town Clerk advertisement will run in the Weekly Packet again alongside the advertisement for a Treasurer/Office Manager.

Functional Area Reports

1. Animal Control

The new county Animal Control Officer should begin in early September 2025. J. Wootten will update all appropriate contact information.

Executive Session

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to enter executive session per 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A) - Personnel Matter at 6:39 PM. Executive session ended at 6:43 PM.

Other Business

1. Road Work

B. Adams reported that he will be developing a “punch list” of outstanding items to be completed on the Mountain Road project before final payment to the contractor. B. Adams also indicated that he still plans to have the town-owned portion of Woods Point Rd. rebuilt and the southernmost segment of Parker Point Rd. resurfaced this fall.

2. Staffing Update

A. Woog gave an update on the search for office staff and a new Treasurer; some candidates will be interviewed and the Town will continue to advertise.

3. Property Tax Abatement

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to grant a 2035 property tax abatement for Map 28 Lot 97 in the amount of \$23.38; a building which had been demolished was included in the assessment.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.