

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2025
Minutes**

Call to Order: 5:30 PM.

Attendance/Quorum

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

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 with one abstention to approve the minutes of September 9, 2025.

Public Comment

B. Wootten asked about how to go about amending the Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance to allow for faster responses to small outbreaks on golf courses so that they can be addressed before they spread, rather than waiting for Town approval. S. Miller informed him that all amendments must go through a Town Meeting but offered to put B. Wootten in touch with the group responsible for the amendments passed at the 2025 Town Meeting.

J. Cummer requested that the Town remove bushes obscuring the speed limit sign on the corner of Range Road and Route 15. J. Chapman pointed out another obscured speed limit sign on Ellsworth Road near Harborview Court.

J. Dow thanked the Public Works crew for their recent improvements to Seaside Cemetery and in the vicinity of the AA Field.

Business

1. Abatement/Supplement Recommendations from Assessors' Agents

Lots 030-077 and 030-077-A were divided, and the assessors' agents recommended an abatement for the previous lot and supplemental assessments for the new lots. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the package of abatement and supplements.

2. Public Safety Relocation Update

The closing is currently scheduled for September 26, 2025. S. Miller will update the bank.

3. Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant

The current draft warrant contains three articles: the selection of the moderator, the question of Toddy Pond Dam ownership district membership and appropriation of funds, and the question of passing a commercial dispensary ordinance. S. Miller solicited suggestions for second locations to post the Warrant, as Hannaford's board is behind glass.

The public hearing for the Toddy Pond Dam and dispensary questions was scheduled for October 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Gordon Emerson Auditorium.

4. Proposed Fixed Price Oil/LP Supply Contracts

S. Miller received a proposal from RH Foster for a winter supply contract, offering propane at approximately \$1.90 per gallon and oil at approximately \$3 per gallon. J. Chapman pointed out that RH Foster allowed the fire station to run out of oil twice last winter; B. Adams offered to investigate other alternatives.

5. Parking Ticket Dispute

The photographs provided indicated that the vehicle in question was blocking the lane of travel, and the Board agreed to uphold the ticket. The Board also discussed whether or not S. Gould should be authorized to write tickets and decided to pause that authority; B. Adams will inform him of such.

S. Miller also received a complaint about Hearth and Soul parking a food truck in a no-parking zone. A. Woog has reminded them to park only on private property.

6. HCPC Housing Forum Participation

A. Woog has not yet received details about the time commitment but has tentatively agreed to participate.

7. Snow Removal Contract

B. Adams circulated the current draft of the contract, the savings of which offset the purchase of the Town's plow truck. He and S. Miller discussed which roads are the responsibility of which entity. Fire Chief J. Chapman requested a list of roads/responsible plow parties, so the Fire Department can advise the right individuals when a road needs attention.

8. Playground Equipment Payment Source Resolution

The Town formerly maintained a bank account for playground equipment, which has since been merged with the parks account. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to record the most recent playground expenditure as having come from the Select Board's fund for unanticipated expenditures and emergencies.

9. Transfer Station Letter Received

An elderly patron of the Transfer Station wrote to thank the Transfer Station staff for assisting her in moving waste from her car and requested that signage be added to offer the service more clearly. The letter will be presented to the Solid Waste Committee at its next meeting.

10. Wharf Resilience Public Meeting: September 16

The engineering firm GEI has finished its conceptual design for wharf reinforcement and will share its work at 6:00 PM on September 16, 2025; S. Miller has posted signs at both wharves with the goal of attracting the users of Blue Hill's working waterfront.

11. Mountain View Cemetery: Anonymous Donation Proposal

S. Miller received an offer for an anonymous donation to level a strip of uneven land and extend the limits of the cemetery. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to accept the donation of services as described provided that the details are reviewed and approved by B. Adams.

12. Florian South Blue Hill Wharf Use

R. Florian was under the impression that he was able to continue closing the South Blue Hill Wharf in order to shift floats. The Board clarified that he received permission only for one weekend. S. Miller will inform him that any future wharf closures will require additional Board approval.

13. Toddy Pond Dam Update and Remote Meeting

A remote informational meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on September 23, 2025, for the benefit of those who could not attend the previous week's meeting. Bucksport Generation has not given their consent for the dams to change ownership and seems to have no immediate plans to do so, which does not hinder the formation of the dam ownership district.

14. Telephone System Upgrade Update

The Town Hall and Wastewater Treatment Plant had their new fiber connections installed on September 15, 2025. The Fire Station and Transfer Station have not yet had their fiber installed. The phone systems will be installed later.

Other Business

E. Best heard from the school district that a child requires a special education appropriation of approximately \$250,000 to attend a specialized school out of state. The Board discussed how much money remains in the special education reserve fund and how to appropriate the remainder. It seems likely that a Special Town Meeting will be required.

A. Woog reported that the Town has not taken ownership of the automatically generated business preview on Google, resulting in inaccurate hours. S. Miller will provide her with the necessary credentials to correct the problem.

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)(F) - Request for abatement on the basis of need at 6:40 PM. Executive session ended at 6:54 PM.

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 6:55 PM. Executive session ended at 7:31 PM.

Additional Business

1. Abatement

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve an abatement of 2025 property taxes as discussed.

2. Appointment of Treasurer

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to accept Morgan Cousins' response to the Town's offer of employment and to appoint her as Town Treasurer, effective September 29, 2025, subject to the Town's standard employee onboarding procedures.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.