Town of Blue Hill Select Board Meeting Monday, September 22, 2025 Minutes

Call to Order: 5:30 PM.

Attendance/Quorum

E. Best (Chair), S. Miller (arrived during public comment period), 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 to approve the minutes of September 15, 2025.

Public Comment

A. Kratz of Blue Hill Peninsula Tomorrow announced that they are helping Brooklin expand its neighbor-to-neighbor energy efficiency improvement program and volunteered himself as a point of contact for anyone interested in helping coach other locals.

T. Horton reported that there is excessive brush along Range Road that hangs into the lane of travel.

Business

1. Special Town Meeting Warrant

S. Miller has distributed a draft warrant and changed the return of warrant to allow for a copy to be posted at Blue Hill Public Library rather than Hannaford. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to issue the Warrant for a Special Town Meeting to be held on November 4, 2025, containing three articles, and to sign the Warrant following the Select Board Meeting.

2. Florian/South Blue Hill Wharf Usage

R. Florian has requested another wharf closure opportunity on September 25 and 26, 2025, for two hours on either side of high tide; S. Miller will post notice.

3. FOAA Request: 2024 Employee Compensation

A company requested the full names and wages of all 2024 Town employees. S. Miller confirmed that all of that information is public information and will respond.

4. Public Safety Relocation Update

E. Best is still waiting for a full description from a surveyor. The closing is still scheduled for Friday, September 26, 2025.

5. Oil/LP Supply Contracts

B. Adams has been in contact with multiple potential vendors and expects more information later in the week.

6. HCPC Housing Forum Participation

A. Woog agreed to begin participating in the Forum in 2026.

7. Employee Policies Manual Update

A. Woog has been drafting updates to the employee policies manual to reflect previous changes to Town policies.

8. Hiring Update

A. Woog and D. Goettler have an interview for a Deputy Clerk scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2025, but are likely to need to run the Weekly Packet advertisement again. M. Cousins will begin as Treasurer on Monday, September 29, 2025.

9. Snow Removal Contract

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the snow removal contract with Runnells Industries as edited and provided to the Board.

10. Wharf Resilience Public Meeting Review

S. Miller reported that GEI presented their design concepts to reinforce the wharves against sea level rise, as well as cost estimates, which ranged between \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000. S. Miller summarized their design proposals and the public comments; the majority of the latter were opposed to the upgrade project in order to preserve usability in the present.

11. Telephone System Upgrade Update

The fiber lines have been laid in all locations except for the Fire Station. D. Goettler recorded an auto attendant message for the Town Hall answering machine. S. Miller expects the new system to go live in approximately a month.

12. Audit Update

The auditors have completed the 2023 audit and are proceeding with 2024. S. Miller is seeking a list of what 2024 materials they still require.

Other Business

E. Best asked further questions about the special education student for whom the Town will be required to spend \$250,000 and has been directed to another member of the school staff. The money will likely not be required until March of 2026. S. Miller spoke in favor of greater transparency regarding how such requests come in and how they are assessed.

A resident complained about a jet ski crossing the harbor at a high speed. J. Chapman stated that the rider was addressing a fire emergency on Long Island.

A section of Stover Road has been stabilized and graveled. Ditching will commence on Parker Point Road next week.

M. Lawson and A. Ruiz's security system codes are not working, and the security company has been struggling to get them online.

The Board agreed to reimburse Gateway Title for their erroneous tax payment.

A member of the public asked to remove the Town's storage building at the Village Wharf in order to install a green area. The Board agreed that the location is important for storage and, due to flooding, unlikely to be able to sustain a green area.

The Board debated where it is reasonable to ticket parked cars without explicit no-parking signage.

T. Horton asked whether markers may still be added to the full cemetery on Union Street. The Board agreed to discuss the matter further.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.