

**Town of Blue Hill  
Select Board Meeting  
Wednesday, May 27, 2026  
Minutes**

**Call to Order: 5:30 PM.**

**Attendance/Quorum**

E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, B. Adams, J. Wootten, A. Woog, A. Ruiz (Deputy Clerk, Minute Taker).

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the minutes of May 18, 2026, as edited.

**Public Comment**

A load of wood chips will need to be brought to the playground; B. Adams offered to sell a surplus of wood chips previously used in Surry. A Woog and E. Best pointed out that the playground fund is fully spent and so recommended using the recreation fund. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved 4/0 to the purchase, using the recreation fund. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 with B. Adams abstaining to purchase the wood chips from B. Adams at cost.

There are concerns about the park being used after hours; the Board recommended contacting one of them to get ahold of the Sheriff.

**Business**

**1. Community Action Grant Letter of Support**

A. Kratz requested a letter of support from the Board for the Blue Hill Peninsula Forward application as they will need to submit it next week. The Board voted to provide the letter of support and signed a version of the proposed letter, edited for typos.

**2. Schedule Liquor License Public Hearings**

A. Blue Hill Inn: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to schedule the liquor license public hearing for June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:45pm.

B. Siam Sky: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to schedule the liquor license public hearing for June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:45pm.

C. The Stoop: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to schedule the liquor license public hearing for June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:45pm.

**3. Appointment of Alternate Member to the Planning Board**

Upon the recommendation of the Planning Board, the Board voted 5/0 to appoint Larry Lefkowitz as the alternate member to the Planning Board.

**4. Island Institute MOU**

A. Woog stated that she has confirmed with MMA (the Town's liability insurer) that liability insurance will be provided as required under the MOU; however, she has not confirmed the status of workers comp coverage. E. Best suggested reaching out to MEMIC regarding the Town's policy.

A. Woog raised the idea of this being remote, hybrid, or in-office only work, E. Best stated knowledge of the area comes with being here physically. S. Miller expects this to be in office initially and once the deliverables are identified, then hybrid work may be a possibility. Woog will provide this feedback to the Island Institute Fellow.

**5. SS4A Agreement**

A. Woog stated she spoke with Patrick Adams (FHA), who advised adding a few more budget descriptions, providing the majority of the budget to the consultants, and the remainder to the projects. S. Miller suggested clarifying the options on the grant, agreeing that the narrative is fine, but would like to define the narrative better around the support of good-paying jobs. A. Woog will reach back out to Adams with changes. The Board authorized Woog to provide a draft of the agreement to Adams for his comment.

**6. Employee Policy Manual Fix**

S. Miller moved to amend the employee policy manual as edited and, in particular, to reduce the probation period from 6 months to 3 months, subject to extension by the probationary employee's supervisor. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the amendment.

**7. Confirmation of Exempt Employee Status**

S. Miller stated that M. Cousins fulfills the requirements and should be treated as an exempt employee from the effective date of our 2026 wage adjustments, January 1, 2026. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to 5/0 to confirm M. Cousins as an exempt employee as of that date and that, to the extent any overtime wages have been paid in 2026, these do not need to be recovered.

**8. WWTP Roofing Shingle Color**

Olver Associates asked whether the Town had a preference for the color of roof shingles on the WWTP buildings. After some discussion, the Board agreed with their recommendation that black shingles be used.

**Other Business**

**Town Records Storage**

S. Miller stated there are a lot of records that must be retained permanently or perpetually, which must be placed in a climate-controlled and fireproof vault. A. Woog reached out to R. Boulet regarding storage; he indicated there is some space at the Blue Hill Library. A. Woog and D. Goettler will view the records storage May 28. S. Miller recommended contacting the Maine Archivist for adequate storage centers for the Town. There is discussion of using the Town basement for temporary files—those that can be disposed of in 3-10 years.

**Stavola Building**

Tabled pending further information.

### **Elm Trees**

E Best reviewed a past Town policy indicating that the Town may contribute, on a 50/50 basis with the property owner, to treatment of trees on private property but in a road right-of-way and that treatment of trees outside of the right-of-way are entirely the responsibility of the property owner. There is concern that this arrangement may not be well understood and that the Street Tree appropriation may be depleted—there are some trees entirely on Town property (100% Town responsibility) that may need removal this year.

### **Town Benches**

A. Woog will reach out to M. Lawson and S. Gould to coordinate with the Harbor School for installation of the new bench the students plan to donate.

### **Animal Control Officer**

The Board agreed to have A. Ruiz contact the animal control officer regarding the municipal update form for the Animal Welfare Program.

### **Town Power Lines**

A. Woog stated W. Barton has requested authorization to evaluate a plan to bury the power, telephone, cable utility lines in the Village area. Although the Board expressed concern that the cost of such an effort may be prohibitively expensive, it determined to authorize Barton's work, provided that it does not require the commitment of any Town funds or other resources.

### **Interpretive Panel**

It was noted that the State has provided a copy of what will likely be the final "interpretive panel" describing the Falls Bridge and the associated Reversing Falls. This was prepared in connection with the recent replacement of the bridge.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.