

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2026
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

The minutes of August 24 and August 31, 2026, were tabled.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 3/0 (E. Best and A. Woog abstaining) to approve the minutes of September 3, 2026.

Public Comment

L. Gulliver requested permission to hang a non-partisan "Blue Hill Votes" banner from the Town Hall once absentee ballots become available. The Board and D. Goettler had no objections to the banner. She also requested permission to use a torch and ink to take a few prints of an elm tree stump on Town property; the Board had no objection on the condition of J. Chapman's approval.

A. Kratz and E. Weed, representing Blue Hill Peninsula Forward, circulated a report of potential areas of investigation to improve social resilience to climate change in Blue Hill. They thanked the Board for their support thus far. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to encourage Blue Hill Peninsula Forward to seek outside funding from grant opportunities.

Business

1. Welcome to Alifaire Noreen, Island Institute Fellow

A. Noreen introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her role in helping manage ongoing Town projects.

2. Trillium Farms Single Event Liquor License

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the single-event liquor license application for Trillium Farms as per its application.

3. Arborvine Liquor License Annual Renewal Public Hearing

The public hearing for Arborvine's liquor license renewal was opened. Two members of the public spoke in favor of granting the license. The public hearing was closed.

S. Miller pointed out that Z. Alvarez recently discovered an apparent Commercial Site Plan Review Ordinance violation at the restaurant and that the owners had not been, to date, as cooperative in correcting the situation. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to table consideration of Arborvine's liquor license renewal.

4. Placement of Falls Bridge Interpretive Panel

Tabled pending a response from MaineDOT as previously requested.

5. Waste Cans in Blue Hill Village

A. Houghton sent the Board a list of proposed locations for public trash receptacles. E. Best suggested than an ordinance requiring vendors of to-go food or drink to have public trash receptacles on their properties. T. Horton encouraged the Board to put the burden of trash management on private business owners rather than the Town's taxpayers. The Board discussed ways of partnering with the business owners to reduce the Town's financial responsibility. S. Miller suggested having A. Houghton provide a proposal for the waste can designs and cost before moving forward.

6. Disposal of Wastewater Treatment Plant Generator

The Consolidated School declined to take the old generator. The Board agreed to ask Isle au Haut for an offer.

7. Sewer Lien Policy

E. Best described her work on a draft sewer lien policy. As the statutory lien timeline is much more flexible for sewer bills than for taxes, she suggested placing liens on delinquent sewer bills once a year; D. Goettler suggested scheduling the lien process at a different time of year from property tax liens to spread out staff work.

8. Accounts Receivable Write-Offs

S. Miller explained that several TRIO Accounts Receivable accounts have not had any entries since before 2018, and it is not clear who owes the balances or for what purpose. He suggested writing them off due to the lack of ability to collect on them. He will provide a detailed schedule at an upcoming Select Board Meeting

9. Turkey Farm Road Reconstruction Contract

An employee of contractor Vaughn D. Thibodeau II, Inc. provided a set of blueprints and a \$1,608,000 contract for the Turkey Farm Road work, which has already begun. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to authorize B. Adams to sign the contract. B. Adams also stated that the paved part of Kingdom Road is still expected to be repaved before winter.

10. Town Property Use – Little Bear LLC

Little Bear LLC requested to use the Gordon Emerson Auditorium from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM on September 15, and October 7, 2026. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 approve the September 15 use. They tabled the October 7 date until D. Goettler could confirm the Auditorium's availability with New Surry Theater.

11. Town Property Use – Stavola Building

S. Brookman presented the Farmstead Artists' request to display and sell art from the Stavola Building on October 3 and 4, 2026. He requested to have the building locked while it holds the art and offered to buy a padlock; the Board agreed that the Town should replace the lock and maintain control of the keys. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the

Board voted 5/0 to approve the Town Property Use Permit, contingent upon the purchase of event insurance and for a fee of \$100.

12. Versant Pole Permit Request

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to authorize S. Miller to sign the pole installation request submitted by Versant for a location along Stover Road.

13. KRT – Final Bill

KRT Appraisal submitted a final invoice for the theoretical completion of the contracted work. S. Miller summarized several issues with the work provided and spoke against paying the invoice until the terms of the contract are fully satisfied.

Other Business

A. Woog and A. Noreen submitted some revisions to the Safe Streets for All grant agreement. A. Woog summarized the two major revisions and hopes to have a clean copy ready for approval by the September 21, 2026, Select Board meeting.

J. Chapman reported some public confusion about the upcoming Falls Bridge film project. S. Miller clarified that the public should expect Falls Bridge to be closed all day during filming; exceptions will be made only for emergency vehicles or school buses and during sporadic breaks in filming.

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) – Discussion of Confidential Records at 7:00 PM. Executive session ended at 7:09 PM.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to enter executive session per 1 M.R.S.§405(6)(F) – Discussion of Confidential Records at 7:11 PM. Executive session ended at 7:12 PM.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.