

**Town of Newport
Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2024 @ 6:00 PM**

Present:

Town Manager, James Ricker

Deputy Clerk, Kathleen Kemp

Selectboard: Chair Donna Berry, Vice Chair Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell, Andrew Colford, Mark Sawyer

Guests:

Maxine Pare, Planning Board

Catherine Bonhoff, Property Owner/Future Resident

1. Call to Order: D. Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access: M. Pare stated that we had an excellent Riverwalk Festival. She also stated that the water quality of the lake was good. The Town Manager introduced our guest/new property owner/future resident, Catherine Bonhoff to the room.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held July 17, 2024: D. Berry requested a motion to accept the minutes, B. Clarke so moved, A. Colford seconded, A. Russell requested discussion for acceptance of the minutes with the correction of the meeting day from Monday to Wednesday. D. Berry made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Communications

- 1. SVCC Festival of Trees:** D. Berry discussed the agreement of the Board to participate in the SVCC Festival of Trees. D. Berry purchased a tree and decorations. D. Berry asked the Board to consider a theme and donation ideas for the tree. M. Sawyer asked if the community/residents could be involved. A. Russell asked about gift cards and restaurant gift certificates. D. Berry discussed soliciting to local businesses. The Town Manager explained that the Town has a parade and community trees to which the local businesses already contribute. He suggested that the Board consider this as well. The Town Manager will invite a Christmas Gala representative to attend the next meeting.

c. Riverwalk Festival: D. Berry commented that the Festival was very nice. M. Pare stated that there were no medical emergencies.

4. Old Business

- a. Public Presentation Sebasticook Lake Watershed Management Plan (8-15-24):** Jen Jeperson from Ecological Instincts provided the presentation and plan. The Town Manager, D. Berry, B. Clarke, and M. Sawyer attended. We will be uploading the presentation to the Website. Jen explained that what we've been doing is helping.

5. New Business

a. Annual appointments: The Town Manager provided several Annual Appointments to be approved and signed by the Board. D. Berry requested a motion to approve and sign the appointments, A. Russell so moved, B. Clarke seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Gift to the Town of Newport .98 acres, Marilyn Tardy surviving tenant, joint owner: The Town Manager described the land to the Board and explained the acceptance process which included final approval at Town Meeting. He provided maps to the Board which identified this one acre lot abutting town property, the old sand pile and storage shed location. D. Berry asked for a motion to accept the land gift with the Town Meeting approval, B. Clarke so moved, A. Russell seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

c. Police Department printer replacement: The Board discussed the pros and cons of buying vs. leasing a replacement printer. Due to the lack of funding, the Town Manager suggested a lease would be more feasible at this time. There was some comments made regarding lease terms which the manager stated he would research. D. Berry asked for a motion to lease a replacement printer, B. Clarke so moved, M. Sawyer seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

d. ARPA Funds: ARPA funds were discussed for a Town of Newport sign to compliment the Electronic Sign, a replacement generator for the Public Works Department, and a recording camera for the Recreation Center. The Board approved all except the sign. They have requested information to consider a non-lighted sign. The Town Manager will provide the information for consideration. D. Berry asked for a motion to utilize the ARPA funds for the agreed upon items, B. Clarke so moved, seconded by M. Sawyer, all in favor, motion carried.

e. Moratorium regarding vote of July 17, 2024: 6- month moratorium on all new Cannabis establishments: There were two applications pending, but has changed to one that will go forward, Marijuanaville. The Town Manager read the Moratorium which will go to the Town Attorneys before the special Town Meeting. B. Clarke so moved, M. Sawyer seconded, all in favor, motion carried. Town ordinances were also discussed regarding reviews by the Selectboard and Planning Board, and the Town Attorney. The two Boards will schedule combined meetings for the review of Town ordinances.

f. Catering Permit Applications c/o Mossy Ledge Spirits

The Grove 9-8-24 Fundraising event and 10-12-24 Wedding

D. Berry requested a motion the applications, A. Russell so moved, B. Clarke seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

g. Public Hearing: Liquor License renewal application: Pizza Hut dba American Dream

Restaurants LLC:

D. Berry requested a motion to approve the renewal application, B. Clarke so moved, M. Sawyer seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

h. Executive Session re: Map 015/Lot 13-A & Map 015, Lot 012 Daniel & Virginia Barbin: Cancelled. The Town Manager met with V. Barbin regarding a contract for future payments. V. Barbin agreed to and signed the contract. The contract was notarized by the Deputy Clerk.

i. Quick Claim Deed for Newport Metals: D. Berry requested a motion to sign the Quick Claim Deed back to Newport Metals, B. Clarke so moved A. Russell seconded, discussion by B. Clarke regarding the location, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Warrant: B. Clarke so moved, A. Colford seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Adjourn: A. Russell so moved, B. Clarke seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Kemp

Kathleen Kemp, Deputy Clerk

Next Meetings: Starting in September, Selectboard Meetings will be held on regularly scheduled dates, the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise indicated)