



OWLS HEAD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

February 16, 2021

VIA ZOOM

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

4:00 pm Chairperson Thomas Von Malder calls the meeting to order. Also present was Selectman Gordon Page, and Linda Post. Also present were Dick Carver, Jeff & Christina Woodman, Stephen Betts, Diane Nelson, Kerry Hadley, Russ Wolfertz, Susan Deutch, Brad Ketcher, Betsy Minehan, Ann Costello, Maria Devery, Maya Newsom, Pat Stephen, Bruce Colson, Zel Bowman-Laberge, Sherry Stanley, Lynn Chaplin, Bill George, Kenneth Wexler, Carlisle Towery, Jeremy Shaw, Bob Hirsch, Treasurer Pam Curtis and recording Secretary Eleanor Stone.

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: 4:03 pm Gordon makes a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Linda seconds the motion.

Vote passes 2-0 Chairman Von Malder abstains

OLD BUSINESS

Ken Wexler updates the Select Board with information regarding the Planning Board meeting. The Knox County Airport presented the Planning Board with a plan for a taxiway which will eventually lead out towards Ash Point Dr. This taxiway will allow for eight hangers to be developed. The Planning Board tabled the discussion because the definition of terms as to what constitutes wetlands in resource protected areas. Then there was a discussion about the airport wanting to rezone some property across the street from the museum. The land is currently zoned residential, but the airport would like that it to be rezoned commercial. But because the property belongs to the Transportation Museum and not the airport, it was determined that the Transportation Museum would come before the Selectmen asking what steps they needed to take to have the lot rezoned for them to try and put the solar farm there.

Ken Wexler refers to a letter that was sent out by “Citizens of Owls Head” stating that the letter had nothing to do with OHAC. He clarifies that the group that he has referred to in the past was not the same group as the Citizens of Owls Head. He wanted to make sure that the Selectmen knew that his OHAC group was not involved.

Selectmen Page points out that the 5-page letter that Wexler was referring to was not signed and sent anonymously. Page asks if anyone at the meeting knows who is part of the group? Wexler replies that he only knows of two people who wrote the petition and letter, and they are Lauren Swartzbaugh and Jared Schmelzer.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: 4:16 pm Gordon makes a motion to change the name of the 75th Anniversary account to the 100th Anniversary account. Linda seconds the motion.

Vote passes 3-0

Owls Head Planning Board ask for acceptance of ordinance use amendment .

MOTION: Gordon makes a motion to amend the proposed ordinance amendment for the Event Centers as it relates to definitions under events that we strike the second sentence in the current definition and the new definition would be “any meeting or gathering held at a lot established by the town ordinance as an event center.” Linda seconds the motion.

Vote passes 3-0

Kerry Hadley, President of the Owls Head Village Library reports to the Select Board. She states that there has been great progress since reopening the library on July 18, 2020. The comparisons are as follows

July 18-December 31, 2019	July 18-December 31, 2020 (With COVID-19)
Patrons: 93	Patrons: 310
Circulation: 180	Circulation: 380

We have made improvements both external and internal that we saw as critical to the success of the library. Each was done with an eye toward frugality (bang for buck and need). and with enormous community support.

- New regular library volunteers during library hours; library fully staffed when open
- New website: www.owlsheadlibrary.org New Facebook page: LIKE us on Facebook!
- Interior: over 780 donated and purchased books processed and added to the collection; 70 DVD's; volunteers built of a new bookshelf and reconfigured existing bookshelves; new (used) furniture; landline telephone, Wi-Fi (important for utilizing a personal cell phone OR the internet in the library)
- Exterior: Upgraded exterior for enjoying library during COVID-19 or nice weather outside with Adirondack Chairs, a little free lending library exterior box accessible 24/7; Entry stairs and railings redone to code with donated materials. Handsome and visible new exterior sign. Seasonal exhibits and decorations.

The library has raised \$3,000 in private donations with an additional \$1,000 restricted (total \$4,000) for creating a strategic plan. We also obtained a \$3,000 grant to conduct a Community Conversation on an issue of major importance to our community – we have chosen the airport to provide an impartial, professionally moderated informational session. We hope to include all stakeholders and representatives of the airport to learn the background on the airport, status, Master Plan, and proposed replacement interlocal agreement. We hope to have your participation on this zoom meeting as well. Diane Nelson mentions that the library currently has about \$17,000 in their bank account. Lastly, we are researching what it would take to catalog our collection. A huge thank you to you for your contribution.

OHSTT Solid Waste Corporation PERC funds were discussed. Selectman Page states that about 2 ½ years ago or so, the Town of Owls Head received from the Municipal Review Committee, PERC funds that had been contributed by the town. Those funds were returned to the Town of Owls Head. Similar but different amounts were returned to the Town of South Thomaston and Thomaston because of the transfer of service companies. The intent of that money returned to Owls Head in the amount of \$181,378 was to be set aside for use towards the Solid Waste Corporation renovations. In late 2020 the town did release \$27,596 of those funds for one phase of the renovations. The Solid Waste Corporation is now asking for the balance in the amount of \$153,782 be released.

Bruce Colson says the project is well on underway and the only thing holding them up is the building permits from Thomaston and that is going before the planning board soon. A tentative agreement has been signed with S.J. Wood Construction Company as the general contractor. Two of the compactors have already been installed and two more are in storage waiting for the project to be finished.

MOTION: Gordon makes a motion that the Town of Owls Head releases \$153,782 to the OHSTT Solid Waste Corporation for use in the scheduled renovations at the OHSTT Solid Waste Corporation on Buttermilk Ln in Thomaston Maine. Linda seconds the motion.

Treasure Pam Curtis mentions that interest has been earned on the money set aside.

Vote passes 3-0

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Dick Carver said that Rocky Coast Lobster had some damage to their floats at the harbor and they would like to have them hauled up to get some repair work done. Dick thought that their discussion about beach was the beach not the parking lot and blocking the entrance to the Richard Carver Harbor Park floats. There have been a few complaints, he does not believe that he has the authority to ask them to move them from town property. He would like for the Select board to go look and ask them to move them into their parking lot. The Selectmen ask the Secretary, Eleanor Stone to contact the Harbormaster, Adam Philbrook and ask them to move the floats.

PUBLIC COMMENT

OTHER BUSINESS

Treasure Pam Curtis requests vacation.

MOTION: Gordon makes a motion to approve Pam's vacation request, but we do not penalize her the 2 hrs. Linda seconds the motion.

Vote passes 3-0

Maya Newsome, Owner of the Owls Head General Store is concerned about a storm drain half in her driveway and half in the road that is very deep, and she would like to know if it is the town's responsibility or the state's? She would like to have the parking lot repaved by the fall and she would like it taken care of prior too that being done. Selectman Post suggests we contact the Road Commissioner, Bill Leppanen. Chairman Von Malder asks Secretary Eleanor Stone to reach out to Mr. Leppanen.

APPROVE AND SIGN THE MUNICIPAL WARRANT

MOTION: 4:46 pm Linda makes a motion that they approve and sign warrants under the condition that they will review them and remove any that they have questions about. Gordon seconds that motion.

Vote passes 3-0

ADJOURN THE MEETING

MOTION: 4:47 pm Gordon makes a motion to adjourn, Linda seconds.

Vote passes 3-0