

# League of Towns

A Collaborative Unit of Government Serving  
Bar Harbor, Cranberry Isles, Ellsworth, Lamoine, Mount Desert,  
Southwest Harbor, Swans Island, Tremont, Trenton, and  
Acadia National Park  
P.O. Box 248 Northeast Harbor, Maine 04662

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2019

Swans Island

10:00 a.m.

**Boat Leaves From Bass Harbor Ferry Terminal at 9:00 am. Please be at the terminal by 8:30 am**

- I. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 9:55 am, present: Durlin Lunt, Cornell Knight, Stu Marckoon, Gary Turner, Sonny Sprague, Karen Griffin, Barbara Pinckton, Mike Madell, Scott Adkins, Marc Gousse, Dexter Lee.
- II. Adoption of Agenda.** Marckoon moved, seconded Knight to adopt as presented. Vote: unanimous.
- III. Approval of Minutes**  
July 23, 2019. Moved Marckoon, seconded Knight. Vote: Unanimous.

### Regular Meeting

- IV. Treasurer's Report:** Review of the financial statements and possible adoption of a Motion "to accept the financial statements as sent." Moved Knight, seconded Saunders. Vote: Unanimous.
- V. Old Business:**
- VI. Regular Business:-**
  - a. County Government (Charter)** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018) Standing invitation to the County Commissioners to attend LOT meetings to discuss the possibility of a Charter Commission and other relevant matters.  
In the past year, the League of Towns has pushed for a charter. Adkins reports that this is not supported by the current Commissioners. However, if the League wants to bring specific proposals to Commissioners, they may be open to this. In general, Adkins advocates that the best collaboration with the County may be shared services. Adkins also offers to make a presentation about what services the County offers. This presentation will occur at the October 17 elected officials meeting. An example of collaboration may be the provision of a clam warden in Lamoine through the County. This service is still in development.

- b. **Affordable Housing.** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018) League hasn't done a whole lot around this in the past year. Knight reports that Bar Harbor Council will want to discuss affordable housing at elected officials meeting. Bar Harbor is specifically looking at acquiring 55-acre parcel that will be a combination affordable housing/solar power site. This topic may be part of that meeting. Sprague reports that real estate sales on Swan's Island are up. Affordable housing has historically been an issue, but nothing major has happened. What the Town wants is affordable housing for people who can't afford \$300,000+ houses. Gousse reports that Boothbay Harbor recently had a donor give land for affordable housing and also provide financing for construction. Sprague expresses concern that the cyclical nature of the lobstering industry makes it difficult to pay rent year-round. Sprague also reports that Swan's Island is trying to pursue broadband. He views this as part of the future of Swan's Island, so that island residents can work remotely. Overall, Sprague is very concerned that the workforce on Swan's Island can't afford to live there. Lunt echoes that this has been an ongoing trend in Mount Desert. Saunders asks whether it would be worth inviting representatives from housing agencies on MDI to the Elected Officials meeting. Marckoon asks what housing availability on Swan's Island currently is. Sprague responds that space is very limited. It is often prohibitively expensive to have homes comply with HUD requirements. Sprague also responds that the yearround population on Swan's Island is approximately 375. Griffin also responds that there are a significant number of AirBNB units on AirBNB. Saunders asks whether it might be worth looking at using tax-acquired property to create affordable housing. Gousse discusses Boothbay Harbor precedent, says that he will send link to news story. Sprague reports that in the 1980s, the Town received two grants, one for construction of an aquaculture facility, and the other for housing for the facility's employees. They were able to construct 9 units. However, Sprague and Griffin also report that the administration of these units has been difficult for the Town, and they don't want to get into that kind of situation again. Durlin will reach out to Boothbay Harbor to see what they can share with us.
- c. **Municipal Collaboration** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018) Dr. Marc Edward Gousse Superintendent of Schools and Lee Umphrey Eastern Maine Development Corporation  
Lunt reports that finding employees is a major concern. Saunders asks Lunt whether there has been progress regarding a shared back-up CEO between Mount Desert and Tremont. Lunt responds that this would make more sense to take up after the Elected Officials meeting. Lunt reports that Lee Umphrey of EMDC will attend Elected Officials Meeting. In general, this issue should be approached not from a cost-savings perspective, but from an employee-recruitment perspective. Gousse reports that HR is a major challenge for MDIRSS. Trying to be more proactive about employee train-

ing and resource provision. Gousse also reports that MDIRSS and Tremont are looking at sharing IT services. Gousse also reports that custodial and maintenance are a natural fit for shared services. Gousse also reports that MDIRSS is looking at wellness initiatives to reduce healthcare costs. Gousse reports that MDIRSS is working on a salary study to identify regional income data. Gousse reports that MDIRSS is working on an enrollment study to project school population over next 10 years.

d. **Opiates and other addictive substances** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018)

Saunders reports that the hub and spoke treatment center in Ellsworth may be interested in discussing how League of Towns can support their work.

e. **Solarization** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018)

Gousse reports that MDIHS is working on solar project. Adkins reports that County is also looking at solar. Possible location is jail roof. Adkins reports that costs of solar at airport aren't economical. Marckoon reports that Lamoine put out an RFP in August and have had one response from Sunpower out of Boston. Sprague reports that there is minimal solar on Swan's Island. Gousse suggests that Swan's Island look at its capped landfill. Lee also reports that Swan's Island town office may be a potential site.

**Members Reports** – (Other topics of interest and importance to League members)  
Elected Officials Meeting October 17, 2019

Finalize logistics for October 17 elected Officials Meeting

Lunt asks if there's another approach to identifying the year's agenda. General discussion about possibly narrowing issues from 4-5 to 1-2.

Marckoon reports that the Town of Gouldsboro may be interested in joining League of Towns. They will be invited to the meeting in Mount Desert.

Discussion of HCPC. What services can be provided?

- Ordinance development
- Hazardous waste collection
- Salt bid

Saunders will share these with HCPC Executive Committee.

Adkins reports that Commissioner Blasi brought EMDC and Hancock County Commissioners to a joint meeting. Commissioners are interested in exploring this idea but do not outright support a takeover of HCPC by EMDC.

Griffin asks whether other towns have camping ordinances. They have a property owner wishing to develop a "glamping" site, and so they are working on an ordinance to regulate this activity.

Lunt will send out an agenda for Elected Officials meeting.

**f. Future Meetings**

October 15, 2019 Mount Desert Town Office  
November 19, 2019 Bar Harbor Council Chambers  
December- No Meeting  
January 21, 2020 Ellsworth City Hall

**VII. Next Agenda:** Suggested discussion items for the next Agenda

**VIII. Adjournment.** Moved Knight, seconded Marckoon. Vote Unanimous. Meeting adjourns at 11:44am.