

# 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

March 26, 2019

ANP Headquarters

10:00 a.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00am, Present: Durlin Lunt (Departed 10:34am), Christopher Saunders, Carol Walsh, Mike Madell, Jim Fortune, Stu Marckoon, Fred Ehrlenbach. Scott Adkins arrived at 10:12am. David Cole arrived at 10:40am.
  - II. **Adoption of Agenda.** Moved and seconded to adopt as presented. Vote: unanimous.
  - III. **Approval of Minutes**  
February 26, 2019: Moved Walsh, seconded Marckoon. Vote: Unanimous. Fortune abstains because absent.
- 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 Ehrlenbach, seconded Walsh, vote: unanimous
  - V. **Old Business:**
  - VI. **Regular Business:-**
    - a. **County Government (Charter)** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018). Since last meeting, Commissioners declined to explore writing a charter. Next option would be a citizen petition. Marckoon expresses interest in making the County Treasurer an appointed position. This suggestion could be put to a vote. The vote would be whether to allow Commissioners to appoint the Treasurer. Walsh moves that the League of Towns write a letter asking the Hancock County Commissioners to put on the ballot in November whether to allow them the authority to appoint a Treasurer, instead of having it be an elected position. Seconded Marckoon. Vote: Unanimous. Note that this action is no reflection on the actions of the current County Treasurer.  
Lunt requests that Adkins look into the last time this question was put to voters.

Adkins recommends that the League create a list of 4-5 goals that could be accomplished by a Charter and then presenting them to the Commissioners. This could include changes in the relationship between Budget Advisory Committee and the Commissioners and increasing the number of Commissioners. Adkins also reports that he is uncertain there is public support for either a charter or an appointed Treasurer. Walsh recommends inviting all County Commissioners to the April 23, 2019 League meeting. Ehrlenbach moves to reconsider previous motion to draft and send a letter to Commissioners. Marckoon seconds. Vote: Unanimous  
Ehrlenbach moves to draft the letter. Marckoon seconds. Vote: unanimously against.  
Walsh moves to invite County Commissioners to April 23, 2019 League meeting for the purpose of discussion a County Charter and other matters. Fortune seconds. Vote: Unanimous in favor.  
(Lunt left at this point in the meeting)

- b. **Affordable Housing.** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018)  
Saunders reports attending Local Housing Needs Forum in Augusta.  
Marckoon reports that Lamoine amended their land use ordinance to allow cluster development. Marckoon also reports that there are developers interested in building such developments. Ehrlenbach reports that Bates Construction development in Ellsworth is filling quickly.
- c. **Municipal Collaboration** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018)  
Marckoon reports that Hancock is looking for an animal control officer. Saunders reports that Tremont is also looking for animal control, possibly through HCSO. Adkins reports that there is apprehension about the County Commission taking on a service that they can't afford to provide. Adkins and Marckoon agree that this kind of effort probably wouldn't save money, but could provide higher quality of service. Madell reports that Park Rangers handle animal issues in Acadia National Park. Adkins reports that Penobscot County uses the County-ACO model. He will bring more information about this to a future meeting.
- d. **Opiates and other addictive substances** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018)  
Fortune asks Adkins whether this still creates a major budget issue in Hancock County. Adkins reports that this trend may be abating.
- e. **Solarization** (Standing item from elected official's workshop 2018)  
Saunders describes Tremont's process to construct solar array. If any towns are interested in Tremont's Request for Qualifications, he can share it.

**Members Reports** – (Other topics of interest and importance to League members)  
Marckoon reports that Lamoine just passed a new Comprehensive Plan. They worked with Fred Taintor out of Portsmouth, NH.

Marckoon also reports that Lamoine is looking at a municipal partnership initiative with MDOT to rebuild Route 184. Cole describes Ellsworth's past MPI projects. Saunders reports that Tremont is likely going to sign a cooperative agreement with MDOT to be reimbursed for minor repairs to state-aid roads.

Adkins reports that County is looking at re-routing entrance to BHB Airport. If entrance is realigned, entrance would come out on Oak Point Road. Cost estimate is \$1.2M.

Ehrlenbach reports that Phase 2 of Acadia Gateway Center has been funded. This will include the visitor center.

Madell reports that final ANP transportation plan was released on Monday, March 25, 2019. Implementation should begin at end of April.

**f. Future Meetings**

April 23, 2019 Tremont Town Office

May 28, 2019 Southwest Harbor Town office

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

VIII. **Adjournment** Marckoon moves to adjourn, Fortune seconded, vote: unanimous. Adjourned at 11:26am.