

**Town of Mount Desert
SelectBoard Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, September 21, 2020

Location: Zoom Meeting

This Meeting was held via remote access.

SelectBoard Members Present:

Chair John Macauley, Matt Hart, Wendy Littlefield, Martha Dudman, Geoff Wood

Public Officials Present:

Town Manager Durlin Lunt, Town Clerk Claire Woolfolk, Fire Chief Mike Bender, Public Works Director Tony Smith,

Members of the public were also in attendance.

I. Call to order at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Macauley called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

II. Public Hearing(s)

A. General Assistance Ordinance Amendments

Town Manager Lunt reported that each year at this time the State provides updated rules regarding General Assistance eligibility and the amount that can be granted. Each year the SelectBoard must vote on these changes.

Chair Macauley asked for Public Comment. There was none.

MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, to close the Public Hearing.

VOTE:

Matt Hart: Aye	33	Geoff Wood: Aye
Wendy Littlefield: Aye	34	Chair John Macauley: Aye
Martha Dudman: Aye		

Motion approved 5-0.

III. Post Public Hearing

A. General Assistance Ordinance Amendments, action if necessary

MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, to adopt the General Assistance Ordinance Amendments, as presented.

VOTE:

Martha Dudman: Aye	46	Matt Hart: Aye
Wendy Littlefield: Aye	47	Chair John Macauley: Aye
Geoff Wood: Aye		

Motion approved 5-0.

IV. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes from September 8 and 10, 2020 meetings

1 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, approval of the Minutes
2 of September 8, 2020 and September 10, 2020, as presented.

3 VOTE:

4 Wendy Littlefield: Aye 7 Matt Hart: Aye
5 Martha Dudman: Aye 8 Chair John Macauley: Aye
6 Geoff Wood: Aye

9 Motion approved 5-0.

10
11 **V. Appointments/Recognitions/Resignations**

12 *A. Consideration of the reappointment of Patricia Dority to the Mount Desert Housing*
13 *Authority Board of Commissioners as Tenant Representative (term 10/1/20 to*
14 *10/1/24)*

15 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, reappointment of Patricia
16 Dority to the Mount Desert Housing Authority Board of Commissioners as Tenant
17 Representative (term 10/1/20 to 10/1/24), as presented, and with thanks.

18 VOTE:

19 Matt Hart: Aye 22 Geoff Wood: Aye
20 Wendy Littlefield: Aye 23 Chair John Macauley: Aye
21 Martha Dudman: Aye

24 Motion approved 5-0.

25
26 *B. Consideration of appointment of Carole Plenty as School Trustee until the municipal*
27 *election of 2021*

28 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, appointment of Carole
29 Plenty as School Trustee until the municipal election of 2021, as presented, and with
30 thanks for her willingness to serve.

31 VOTE:

32 Martha Dudman: Aye 35 Matt Hart: Aye
33 Geoff Wood: Aye 36 Chair John Macauley: Aye
34 Wendy Littlefield: Aye

37 Motion approved 5-0.

38
39 *C. Consideration of appointment of Julianna Bennoch as School Trustee until the*
40 *municipal election of 2021*

41 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, appointment of Julianna
42 Bennoch as School Trustee until the municipal election of 2021, as presented, and with
43 thanks for her willingness to serve.

44 VOTE:

45 Wendy Littlefield: Aye 48 Geoff Wood: Aye
46 Matt Hart: Aye 49 Chair John Macauley: Aye
47 Martha Dudman: Aye

50 Motion approved 5-0.

51
52 *D. Claire Woolfolk re-certified as a Certified Clerk of Maine by the Maine Town and*
53 *City Clerks' Association, effective 9/15/2020*

54 Chair Macauley offered congratulations to Clerk Woolfolk.

1
2 *E. August 30, 2020 letter from Donald Stern to the Town of Mount Desert Fire*
3 *Department*

4 Chair Macauley lauded the Fire Department's efforts with regard to the circumstances
5 noted in the letter.
6

7 *F. Resignation of On-Call Firefighter Andrew Jewett, effective 09/14/2020*

8 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, acceptance of the resignation
9 of On-Call Firefighter Andrew Jewett, effective 09/14/2020 with regret, and with thanks
10 for his service to the community.

11 VOTE:

12 Matt Hart: Aye 15 Geoff Wood: Aye
13 Wendy Littlefield: Aye 16 Chair John Macauley: Aye
14 Martha Dudman: Aye
17 Motion approved 5-0.
18

19 **VI. Consent Agenda** *(These items are considered routine, and therefore, may be passed by the Selectmen in one blanket motion.*
20 *Board members may remove any item for discussion by requesting such action prior to consideration of that portion of the agenda.)*

21 *A. Department Reports: Highway*

22 *B. Letter from John E. Klein regarding deer population in town*

23 *C. Hancock County Commissioners Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2020*

24 MOTION: Mr. Wood moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, acceptance of the Consent
25 Agenda as presented.
26

27 Mr. Hart made note of the letter regarding the deer population. Aside from the damage to
28 gardens, deer - and now also turkeys - have become traffic accident risks. He wondered
29 if anyone had information on the hunt referenced in the letter.
30

31 Town Manager Lunt reported that there was a hunt in the early 1960s conducted by
32 Acadia National Park. The herd was thinned at that time. Ms. Dudman recalled the idea
33 being discussed by the Town of Bar Harbor several years ago. Manager Lunt agreed. It
34 was his recollection that Mount Desert also discussed the idea in the early 2000s. It may
35 have gotten onto the Warrant at that time. Ms. Littlefield reported she was on the
36 committee that discussed the issue. The idea was brought up due to the increase in Lyme
37 Disease. A number of ideas were suggested, however there were no ideas for ridding the
38 Town of deer that were not disparaged by concerned Townspeople. Chair Macauley
39 recalled a poll by mail was sent to residents regarding the issue.
40

41 Mr. Hart felt that if the issue of deer population control was to be addressed, it would be
42 beneficial to have other communities on the island onboard as well. It might be worth
43 inquiring whether other Towns on the island have had the issue come up.
44

45 Town Manager Lunt noted that upcoming discussions regarding holding a League of
46 Towns meeting would be ensuing soon. Perhaps the issue could be discussed then. He
47 would report on progress to the Board. Manager Lunt noted that Bar Harbor and
48 Tremont have tried to address the situation in past years and were met with opposition.

1 Swan's Island and the Cranberry Isles have been the only towns who have had a thinning
2 of their herds.

3
4 Ms. Littlefield suggested the Town reply to the letter received, thanking Mr. Klein for his
5 interest and report on the Board's discussion of the issue.

6
7 Mr. Wood felt the issues to address with such a discussion were the potential of loss of
8 life due to car accidents, and the potential of illness due to Lyme Disease. Garden
9 damage seemed secondary to these.

10
11 VOTE:

12
13 Martha Dudman: Aye 16 Matt Hart: Aye
14 Wendy Littlefield: Aye 17 Chair John Macauley: Aye
15 Geoff Wood: Aye
18 Motion approved 5-0.

19
20 **VII. Selectmen's Reports**

21 Mr. Wood asked about the crosswalk status in Somesville.

22
23 Director Smith reported that two to three years ago the DOT inspected the crosswalks.
24 The two that are now gone – by the old schoolhouse and by the landing – were deemed
25 unsafe. This was due to an unsafe vehicle-to-pedestrian sight distance, making them
26 dangerous to use. Replacing crosswalks deemed unsafe by the DOT puts a heavy
27 liability on the Town.

28
29 **VIII. Unfinished Business**

30 None presented.

31
32 **IX. New Business**

33 *A. Authorization of Carryovers from Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in*
34 *the amount of \$119,989.67 per the Carryover Memo, Detailed Schedule and Public*
35 *Works Memo*

36 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, approval of
37 authorization of Carryovers from Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in the
38 amount of \$119,989.67 per the Carryover Memo, Detailed Schedule and Public Works
39 Memo, as presented.

40 VOTE:

41 Martha Dudman: Aye 44 Matt Hart: Aye
42 Wendy Littlefield: Aye 45 Chair John Macauley: Aye
43 Geoff Wood: Aye
46 Motion approved 5-0.

47
48 *B. Consideration of replacing the language on approximately 24 existing Wayfinding*
49 *signs in Northeast Harbor with new replacement faces to be furnished and installed*
50 *by Neokraft Signs, the original manufacturer of the signs, to make the signs more*

1 informative for the public at a total cost of \$6,208.54 with the Chamber of Commerce
2 paying for \$2,200 of the total and the Town paying the remaining balance of
3 \$4,008.54 using funds from the Public Works Roads Reserve Account #4050100-
4 24573 which has \$6,224.18 in it left from the amount approved for the original
5 Wayfinding sign project.
6

7 Mr. Wood voiced confusion at the level of promotion that the Town is taking on an
8 official level to promote private businesses. He added that the \$2200.00 contributed by
9 the Chamber originates from the Town's funding to them, making it all Town money. He
10 pointed out that while the Town is covering the cost of plexiglass for the Visitor's Center,
11 their rent is only a dollar a year. He wondered about the benefit the Town was receiving.
12

13 Director Smith noted that the Wayfinding project is designed to help improve the
14 business climate on Main Street, as is the Main Street improvement project currently
15 underway. MD365 also works to enhance business. Director Smith believed the intent
16 was to invest in order to create a viable business community.
17

18 Chamber of Commerce Director, Micky Sumpter, agreed the focus should not always be
19 on Northeast Harbor. The Wayfinding signs are in place. They currently say "Village
20 District". The problem with that is that it mentions nothing about shopping or hotels.
21 The intent of the initial purchase of the signs was to market the businesses in Northeast
22 Harbor. As they now stand, they do not accomplish that intent.
23

24 Director Smith added that with regard to the plexiglass at the visitor center, the Town is
25 the landlord of the building, and essentially serving the tenant with this addition. Ms.
26 Sumpter added that the plexiglass is required for safe entry into the building due to the
27 Covid-19 pandemic.
28

29 Mr. Wood clarified that his confusion stems from the level of support and funding the
30 Town provides the Chamber of Commerce. He felt it unusual. He didn't feel such
31 support and funding was a primary purpose of the Town government.
32

33 Ms. Dudman noted Mr. Wood's questions are similar to ongoing conversations for the
34 Town, along with how to keep the Town a viable, year-round community. The
35 conversation has been a long one; including public meetings and consultants. It's been a
36 slow progress, but it is moving forward. As the conversation moved forward, it became
37 apparent that the Chamber could take on more of the work involved, but the Town
38 needed to support their efforts. It can't be done alone. Ms. Dudman noted the signs were
39 erected five or six years ago. She felt they probably do need to be updated.
40

41 Chair Macauley agreed with many of Mr. Wood's points. Currently, however, the Town
42 does not have a robust Chamber of Commerce with a big budget. For now, the Town
43 does have to step in and help out.
44

45 Mr. Hart recollected conversations held years ago, and the feeling from the residents was
46 that they wanted the Town to be involved in the work being done. Additionally, he felt it

1 made sense to use the original sign maker; they would have the correct colors and sizes
2 on hand. Director Smith agreed with Mr. Hart's assessment on using the original sign
3 maker.

4
5 Chair Macauley requested something other than "Shopping Center" be used. It seemed
6 inappropriate for the downtown Northeast Harbor area. Ms. Sumpter thought the wording
7 was "Shopping District".

8
9 It was noted individual business will not be listed on the Wayfinding signs. Ms. Sumpter
10 pointed out that there are two additional signs that do include business names. She was
11 told the Chamber pays for annual updates to those signs. All Main Street businesses are
12 included on those signs. The Chamber took over responsibility for the sign's updates
13 from the Town.

14
15 Mr. Wood confirmed the memo included a request that the signage change from "Village
16 Center" to "Shopping Center". Ms. Sumpter reiterated the proposed term would be
17 "Shopping District".

18
19 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, replacing the language on
20 approximately 24 existing Wayfinding signs in Northeast Harbor with new replacement
21 faces to be furnished and installed by Neokraft Signs, the original manufacturer of the
22 signs, to make the signs more informative for the public at a total cost of \$6,208.54 with
23 the Chamber of Commerce paying for \$2,200 of the total and the Town paying the
24 remaining balance of \$4,008.54 using funds from the Public Works Roads Reserve
25 Account #4050100-24573 which has \$6,224.18 in it left from the amount approved for
26 the original Wayfinding sign project. With the stipulation that the signs changing from
27 "Village Center" will read "Shopping District" and not "Shopping Center".

28 VOTE:

29 Martha Dudman: Aye 32 Matt Hart: Aye
30 Wendy Littlefield: Aye 33 Chair John Macauley: Aye
31 Geoff Wood: Nay

34 Motion approved 4-1 (Wood Opposed).

35
36 *C. Authorization to use the \$15,000.00 in the Historical Preservation budget account*
37 *number 1220220-57800 which has a balance of ~~\$15,000.00~~ \$21,991.52 (amended*
38 *10/05/2020) to pay for preservation services from Kofile*

39 Town Clerk Woolfolk stated this was the company used by the Town for preservation
40 services for approximately 30 years.

41
42 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, approval to use \$15,000.00
43 in the Historical Preservation budget account number 1220220-57800 which has a
44 balance of ~~\$15,000.00~~ \$21,991.52 (amended 10/5/2020) to pay for preservation services
45 from Kofile, as presented.

46 VOTE:

47 Martha Dudman: Aye 49 Wendy Littlefield: Aye
48 Geoff Wood: Aye 50 Matt Hart: Aye

1 Chair John Macauley: Aye
2 Motion approved 5-0.
3

4 **X. Other Business**

5 *A. Such other business as may be legally conducted*
6 There was no Other Business.
7

8 **XI. Treasurer's Warrants**

9 *A. Approve & Sign Treasurer's Warrant AP2114 in the amount of \$5,578,849.96*

10 MOTION: Ms. Littlefield moved, with Mr. Wood seconding, Approval and Signature of
11 Treasurer's Warrant AP2114 in the amount of \$5,578,849.96, as presented.

12 VOTE:

13 Wendy Littlefield: Aye 16 Matt Hart: Aye
14 Geoff Wood: Aye 17 Chair John Macauley: Aye
15 Martha Dudman: Aye
18 Motion approved 5-0.
19

20 *B. Approve Signed Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2113,*
21 *and PR2106, in the amounts of \$23,124.40 and \$118,352.43, respectively*

22 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Mr. Hart seconding, approval of Signed
23 Treasurer's Payroll, State Fees, & PR Benefit Warrants AP2113, and PR2106, in the
24 amounts of \$23,124.40 and \$118,352.43, respectively, as presented.

25 VOTE:

26 Martha Dudman: Aye 29 Geoff Wood: Aye
27 Matt Hart: Aye 30 Chair John Macauley: Aye
28 Wendy Littlefield: Abstains
31 Motion approved 4-0-1 (Littlefield in Abstention).
32

33 *C. Acknowledge Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants 06 in the amount of*
34 *\$80,528.03*

35 MOTION: Mr. Hart moved, with Ms. Dudman seconding, acknowledgement of
36 Treasurer's School Board AP/Payroll Warrants 06 in the amount of \$80,528.03, as
37 presented.

38 VOTE:

39 Matt Hart: Aye 42 Geoff Wood: Aye
40 Martha Dudman: Aye 43 Chair John Macauley: Aye
41 Wendy Littlefield: Abstains
44 Motion approved 4-0-1 (Littlefield in Abstention).
45

46 **XII. Adjournment**

47 MOTION: Ms. Dudman moved, with Ms. Littlefield seconding, Adjournment.

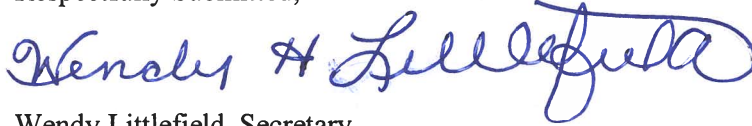
48 VOTE:

49 Martha Dudman: Aye 52 Geoff Wood: Aye
50 Wendy Littlefield: Aye 53 Chair John Macauley: Aye
51 Matt Hart: Aye
54 Motion approved 5-0.

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The Meeting adjourned at 4:39PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Wendy Littlefield, Secretary