

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2022

6:00 PM

1. **Call to Order:** **Brian Smith** called meeting to order at 6:00 PM followed by Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Review Minutes of Previous Meeting:** **Ryan Sprague** seconded motion of **Jeff Davis** to approve minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried. (3 sets of minutes)
3. **Public Comment:** **Jimmy Clark** requested copy of every meeting minutes for the rest of his life. He suggested a sign-up sheet for those interested. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of information posted on the Town website. **Celeste Sherman** agreed to difficulty locating information on the site. **Karl Kurz** stated old information is posted on the website. **Jimmy** inquired about money being spent and ordinances passed. Selectmen advised all this information was discussed at Annual Town Meeting. **Jeff Davis** seconded motion of **Brian Smith** to have minutes posted on the website once they are approved. **Jimmy Clark** inquired who to speak with if doesn't occur. **Brian Smith** advised to call **Ryan Sprague**. **Jimmy** advised he brought this issue to the Board 2 years ago and received the same response and nothing happened. Selectmen advised we are working on the issue.
4. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
5. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Gator Site:** **Jeff** advised nothing has happened yet. **Eric Guptill** has told **Jeff** he would be here "next week", but nothing has happened. **Brian** advised he contacted **Peter Hall**, but he has not received a response.
  - B. **Discuss / Appoint Aquaculture Committee:** **Brian** advised **Gerry** has volunteered to serve on the committee. **Danna Defalco** also stated she was interested in serving. **Jeff** asked if the Planning Board had been asked to serve on the committee. **Jimmy Clark** asked what the need was for a moratorium and who is going to do the science the committee needs. **Jimmy** advised the bleach bottles deposited on his beach are not from **Cooke Aquaculture**, but from the fishermen. **Jeff** thanked **Jimmy** for picking up the debris. **Jeff** further advised of peripheral issues pertaining to the moratorium. **Ryan Sprague** noted his suspiciousness of companies who operate outside their homeland and do business in other countries.
  - C. **Garage Update:** **Jeff** explained we should do what we can with our own people and equipment while we wait for the money to come through.
  - D. **Machias Bay Property Sale (FOB) – Brian** explained the difficulties in completing the transaction with the **State** to increase **Fort O'Brien State Park**. The **State** does not want to do a full appraisal after having told the Town that they would pay the appraised value. They have done a preliminary appraisal and offered the Town \$120,00 to \$160,000. They town voted to sell if the offer was at least the assessed

value which is \$219,000. We will not sell for less than assessed value. Discussion ensued regarding the R-O-W to the lot and difficulty accessing the land.

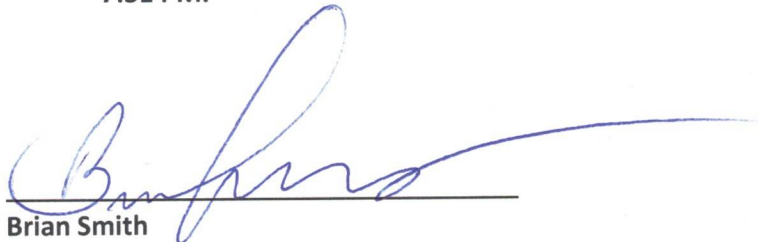
**6. New Business:**

- A. Machias bridge:** Brian explained difficulty with Machias sewage overflows and issues of shutting down the clam flats. Discussion continued regarding the history of Machias sewer. Brian advised he spoke with Bill Kitchen, Machias Town Manager, who stated this latest grant should stop the overflows. **Brian seconded the motion of Jeff Davis to object to any type of system in Machias that jeopardizes Machiasport flats. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - B. Pre-authorization Limits Apply:** Brian explained that the Fire Department recently requested funds to purchase various pieces of equipment which they approved. However, when the invoice arrived it was substantially more than what was approved. Karl Kurz inquired why the FD needs a thermal imaging camera. Selectmen advised the camera detects human bodies at fire scenes. Jeff Davis **seconded motion of Brian Smith to have departments do more research before requesting funds and that they must adhere to limits set by Selectmen. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - C. DMR Changes to Maine Coastal Program:** Material provided to Selectmen for their own guidance.
  - D. Community Resilience Partnership:** Jeff Davis **seconded motion of Brian Smith to table any decision on this issue until they have had time to research it a bit more. All in favor, motion carried.**
  - E. Winter / Elderly plans, ideas:** Clerk advised GA budget is \$2000/ yr. with a 70% reimbursement. A bequest was made to the Town for \$4200 for needy families. Clerk recommended authorizing access to the \$4200 in the event it is needed to assist residents. Ryan Sprague **seconded motion of Brian Smith to approve access to the funds. All in favor, motion carried.** Jimmy Clark inquired if the Town was aware of the upcoming changes to property tax through the Tax Stabilization Program. He feels the Town should make a public announcement to promote the program. Clerk advised we are aware, but the State has not yet provided guidance or application process. However, that is an issue that would be addressed to the Assessor.
- 7. Selectmen's Report:** Brian did the Marion Transfer report. Jimmy Clark inquired if the Town has alerted the public to the tax stabilization program. Celeste Sherman explained as previously discussed. Brian welcomed Ryan to his first meeting. Jeff advised we had already discussed all his issues.
- 8. Clerk / Treasurers Report:** Included in Binder – Town office will be closed Sept. 7 & 8 while Clerks attend Elections Training.
- 9. Tax Collectors Report:** Included in Binder  
Jimmy Clark inquired what was being done with the Pettegrow house. Selectmen advised the house will be torn down. Selectmen advised Jimmy the townspeople voted at Town Meeting to tear the house down. Brian Smith read the article included at Town Meeting. Jimmy advised he

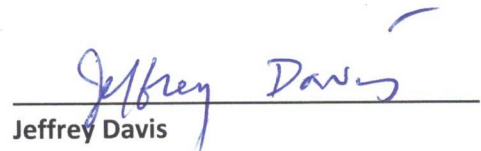
would like to understand the law. **Jimmy** wanted to know who the Certified Maine Engineer / Architect was who made the finding on the house. He advised the State has a very specific set of rules regarding dilapidated structures and he believes those rules were not followed. Brian advised **Jimmy** to put his specific concerns in writing. **Jeff** advised **Jimmy** to do whatever he needed to do if he needs to call a lawyer and we'll deal with it. **Jimmy** advised the Selectmen were going to do whatever they wanted because they don't care about looking into the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure and that's the way they run this Town. **Clerk** advised Town is waiting on a call from **DEP** who will advise the Town how to proceed. **Brian** advised **Jimmy** not to tell them what they care about, but to put his concerns in writing and they will deal with it.

10. Executive Session: Pursuant to M.R.S.A §405(6)( C ) Duties of officials / appointees: 6:56 PM Ryan Sprague seconded motion of Brian Smith to enter Executive Session. 7:30 PM Ryan Sprague seconded motion of Brian Smith to exit Executive Session. Jeff Davis seconded motion of Brian Smith to act as discussed concerning the Shellfish Warden.

11. Adjourn: Ryan Sprague seconded motion of Brian Smith to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.



Brian Smith



Jeffrey Davis



Ryan Sprague



Marcia L. Hayward / Clerk