



**Town of Camden  
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting  
September 23, 2014**

**6:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Martin Cates, John French, Jr., James Heard, Leonard Lookner, Don White, and Town Manager Finnigan. Also present were members of the press and public.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

**Recognition of the Camden Police Department**

Chief Randy Gagne presented letters of commendation to the officers who responded to the Rite Aid armed robbery, hostage taking, and 10-hour stand-off incident. The officers (Sergeants John Tooley, Daniel Brown, Detective Curt Andrick, and Officer Jeffrey Boudreau) were on hand to be honored for their service.

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**Convene as Board of Assessors**

*John French made a motion to Convene as the Board of Assessors. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order.

**2. Establish the 2014 Tax Commitment**

Appraiser Jim Murphy, President of Murphy Appraisal services, spoke to the Board about the 2014 tax commitment process. There was discussion among the Board about the tax rate and overlay.

*John French made a motion to set the 2014 tax commitment at \$15,938,018 with a tax rate of \$14.43 and an overlay of \$17,552.61. Don White seconded the motion.*

Leonard Lookner suggested a more conservative tax rate of \$14.44. There was discussion on the low number of abatement requests and amount of overview. Cates said he supported the motion as is.

*The motion was unanimously approved.*

Murphy, along with Kerry Leichtman, Town of Rockport Assessor, and Beth Doan, Assessing Administrative Assistant, were commended by the Town Manager and Select Board for their teamwork and long hours in meeting the deadline for this important project.

*John French made a motion that the certificate of assessment and the Municipal valuation return be signed. Donald White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

*Leonard Lookner made a motion to adjourn as Board of Assessors and convene as the Select Board. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

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## **Select Board**

### **1. Citizen Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

### **Board Comments**

Don White said how fortunate we are to have highly trained public safety officers who are prepared to protect us during very serious incidents such as the Rite-Aid incident.

White noted that the Harbor Arts and Book Sale would be taking place October 4 & 5 at the Camden Public Library. He also noted that the Camden International Film Festival would be taking place the last weekend in September.

Leonard Lookner thanked Ben Fowlie who runs CIFF. He also talked about scheduling a public hearing to address the proposal by the Harbor Committee to limit piers in the Outer Harbor. John French noted that said that numbers related to valuation needs to be assembled before the public hearing can take place, along with clarification from Attorney Kelly. Cates pointed out that numbers on potential loss of tax revenue along with a valuation study takes time.

Gene McKeever of the Harbor Committee said that he had spoken to an official who had said that a tax impact as a result of a pier moratorium would be insignificant.

John French said he would be concerned about fairness of some properties having been allowed to install piers while others wouldn't be allowed to.

Lookner asked about the Fisherman's Hoist. Pat Finnigan responded that the hoist may be installed during November.

### **2. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions**

Amy Rollins of the Camden Downtown Business Association read a letter in support of Camden's Development Director position.

### **3. Approval of Select Board Minutes dated September 9, 2014**

*Don White made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting. John French seconded the motion.*

Leonard Lookner proposed an amendment to the minutes on page 2, paragraph 5, sentence 3, so that it would read:

*“Leonard Lookner objected to the information note and asked if it was legal to change this wording. He asked whether the issue of legality of the proposed change in wording had been run by the Town Attorney, and the Town Manager responded that it had not.”*

*Don White accepted the amendment to the motion and John French seconded the amended motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### **4. Select Board Member Reports**

Don White reported that the Opera House Committee had met to review the summer’s activities. He noted that the Library Board of Trustees had welcomed two new members, Amy Rollins and Claudia Griffiths. Two additional members would be voted in at their next meeting, he added.

White said that the Planning Board had reviewed a new wireless communications equipment plan for the Knox Mill, but that approval had been held up pending completion of roof work. Also at the Planning Board meeting, items related to the Ragged Mountain Recreation Area were reviewed but could not be concluded due to the fact that there were not enough voting members present. White added that the new Business Opportunity Zone will come before the Select Board at a future meeting.

### **5. Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Finnigan noted that election day was only weeks away. She also reported that 95% of the trail work at the Snow Bowl was complete and that lifts are being constructed.

Finnigan expressed her thanks for the police department’s professionalism and quick reaction time, noting that the Rite-Aid incident could have been much worse. She said that the local police force was assisted by county and state officers who also responded to the call as well. Currently our police department has begun proactive work to become familiar with other potential drug store targets, she said, so officers will be knowledgeable about the properties should another incident occur.

### **6. New Business**

#### **A. Public Hearings**

Martin Cates opened a public hearing.

#### **1) Appleton Family, LLC at 44 Bay View Street to expand a commercial wharf abutting the inner Harbor, Tax Map 119 Lot 9**

Sam Appleton, owner of the Waterfront Restaurant, spoke about plans to expand their commercial wharf to accommodate dining needs on the deck of the restaurant. Gene McKeever of the Harbor Committee said that the committee had unanimously supported the application during their August 4, 2014 meeting.

*Leonard Lookner made a motion to approve the application by the Appleton Family, LLC to expand a commercial wharf at 44 Bay View Street abutting the inner Harbor. James Heard seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

## **2) Liquor Licenses and Special Amusement Permit**

- 2) Cappy's Chowder House at 1 Main Street for a renewal Class XI Restaurant Lounge Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous Liquor License
- 3) Cappy's Chowder House at 1 Main Street for a Special Amusement Permit
- 4) Long Grain at 31 Elm Street for a renewal Class I Restaurant Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous Liquor License
- 5) Camden Windward House at 6 High Street for a renewal Class V Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous Liquor License

*John French made a motion to approve the Liquor License renewals for Cappy's Chowder House, Camden Windward House, and Long Grain and the Special Amusement Permit for Cappy's Chowder House. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

Chairperson Cates closed the public hearing.

## **B. Consideration of the following Victualer's and Lodging License Renewals:**

- 1) Cappy's Chowder House at 1 Main Street for victualer license
- 2) Camden Windward House at 6 High Street for a victualer and lodging license
- 3) Elm Street Grill at 115 Elm Street for a victualer license

*Leonard Lookner to approve the victualer licenses for the Elm Street Grill and Cappy's Chowder House, and the victualers and lodging licenses for the Camden Windward House. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

## **C. Confirmation of Election Warden, and Establish the Registrar of Voters' office hours for the November 4, 2014 State General Election and Special Town Meeting.**

*John French made a motion to confirm the appointment of Peter Gross as Election Warden for the November 4, 2014 State General Election and Special Town Meeting, and to establish the Registrar of Voters' hours as 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

## **7. Select Board Closing Comments**

John French asked if a light could be installed on the path at the fire station lot.

James Heard asked about the situation with the DEP at the Snow Bowl. Pat Finnigan provided information about the status.

Finnigan noted that tax bills would be sent out shortly. She said that when putting together the Town budget, the budget committee strives to provide a budget that balances at the level of services that the public expects at the lowest possible cost.

Lookner commended Pat Finnigan on guiding a successful budget process.

**Adjourn**

*Don White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John French seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board adjourned at 7:45pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace

Recording Secretary