



Town of Camden
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
January 8, 2013
6:30pm

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

A. Call to Order

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

B. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

1. Report of the Comprehensive Plan Committee – Lowrie Sargent

Lowrie Sargent reported on progress to date with the review of the Comprehensive Plan. Work had started on several chapters, he said, and the committee is still looking for citizens at large to join work groups. Sargent informed the Select Board that the next work group formed would be for review of the Harbor Chapter #12 of the Plan. While they'd planned for the Harbor Chapter Work Group to be formed later in the Comp Plan process, Sargent said that the people who needed to be involved were more available during the off-season so they'd decided to begin this work now.

Sargent gave an overview of the Comp Plan review process for those unfamiliar with its purpose. He said that they hope to have the revised version of the Plan ready for public vote in June of 2015.

Leonard Lookner noted that the Comprehensive Plan represents a picture of how we view ourselves as a community, and that this is a great opportunity for citizens to have input on that. Pat Finnigan noted that information on how to become involved in the Comp Plan review is available on the Town website. Martin Cates said that this next Work Group will be very important since it addresses the harbor, which is one of our town's most valuable assets.

James Heard told Sargent that his work and that of the other volunteers involved is very much appreciated.

2. 2013 Walk for National Multiple Sclerosis on April 27, 2013 (informational)

Pat Finnigan told the Board that the Maine Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society plans to hold a 5-mile walk on April 27 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to help raise funds. She noted that the event organizers will coordinate with the Police Department.

C. Citizen Comments

Beedy Parker of Camden spoke with regard to the LPG tank project being proposed for the Town of Searsport and asked Select Board members to consider attending a meeting being held on the matter on January 16th. She said that an important safety report would be delivered at this meeting and noted that this is a regional concern.

Tom Hopps of Camden and Arlene Leighton of Lincolnville spoke with regard to the proposed tank project encouraging Board members to attend the January 16th meeting.

Seeing no further public comments, the Chair opened the floor to comments from the Board.

Donald White noted that the Snow Bowl had experienced a fantastic holiday vacation week thanks to a combination of man-made and natural snow, and he thanked the staff for their hard work. White also said that the Camden Public Library had been featured in the latest issue of Yankee magazine.

Lastly, he said that the new fire truck had arrived and that the fire department will be holding a two-day training session for their members on operating the new fire truck with all its equipment and features.

Leonard Lookner shared with the Board that the damage that road salt causes to automobiles should be researched, and he commented on the amount of salt on the sidewalks. Finnigan noted that the Town Office hears requests from citizens on both sides of the salt question; some wishing there would be more salt placed on the ice and some asking that less salt be used, so she said they try to strike a balance.

James Heard reported as liaison to the Harbor Committee that dredging of the harbor had started.

D. Approval of Select Board Minutes

Donald White made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2012 meeting as presented. John French seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Select Board Member Reports

Donald White reported that following a site plan review and public hearing, the Planning Board had approved a new building at 24 Mt. Battie Street to house commercial space on the first floor and residential space on the second. White said that at a subsequent meeting, the Planning Board had discussed the possibility of increasing permit fees along with the structure of fines for those not in compliance. He said that the Planning Board had asked CEO Wilson to put together an updated fee schedule and fines proposal that would be discussed at a future meeting.

Lastly, White said he had attended a meeting of the Historic Resources Committee where Dave Jackson had given a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Amphitheatre. White reported that the library is still waiting for a final decision from the Department of the Interior on the Amphitheatre's National Historic Landmark designation.

F. Town Manager Report

Pat Finnigan told the Board that the US Toboggan Nationals coming up on February 8th would be a tribute this year to three citizens who we lost during 2012: Ken Bailey, Don Gross and Jeff Kuller, all of whom were extremely dedicated to the Snow Bowl. The families of these men would be first down the chute when the event opens, she said.

Finnigan reported that Public Works had had some snow removal challenges with the recent storms. She reminded people that it's safest if they can park elsewhere during snowstorms other than on the roads so that the plows could get through and clear the roadways efficiently.

The Town Manager said that January 18th would be the deadline for submission of bids for the design work on the Riverwalk and Public Landing projects.

Lastly, Finnigan invited the public to participate in a six-week program on the History of American Music to be held Sundays at the Library, hosted by the Town and Bay Chamber Concerts in conjunction with the Tribeca Film Festival.

G. Old Business

There was no old business.

H. New Business

1. Citizens Petition requesting the Town of Camden to Pass a Resolution asking the Maine Legislature and Maine's Congressional Delegation to support a Constitutional Amendment to overturn the "Citizens United v Federal Elections Commission" 2010 decision

Deborah Dodge of Camden spoke to the Select Board regarding a petition to support a resolution to overturn a 2010 court decision that had opened the door to large campaign contributions from corporations. The petition she presented had been signed by 322 Camden citizens. Dodge said that the court decision in question had in effect equated corporations with people and money with speech, thus allowing campaign donations to be contributed by anonymous, undisclosed sources. She explained that this had resulted in big money coming in to influence the voting process; that it had drowned out the voices of constituents and had skewed the playing field.

Dodge noted that the movement to overturn the 2010 decision so far spans 22 Maine municipalities, and that 11,000 signatures have been collected around Maine. To date, she said, twelve states have approved resolutions requesting that the decision be overturned, and additional resolutions are pending in six more states.

There was some discussion among the Board. Steve Melchiskey answered questions from Board members and described the origin of this effort locally, saying that it had begun with the Maine Citizens for Clean Elections.

Leonard Lookner made a motion that the Select Board of the Town of Camden ask the

Maine Legislature and Maine's Congressional Delegation to support a US Constitutional Amendment which states that money is not speech and corporations are not persons under the US Constitution, and that this will resolve and overturn the "Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission" 2010 decision; and that they support a petition presented to the Select Board on January 8, 2013. Donald White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

2. Consideration of Proposed Settlement Agreement Regarding a Land Use Violation located on Start Road

Town Attorney William Kelly gave the background on a land use violation on Start Road concerning property owned by Sylvia and C. Edward Libby. He told the Board that a settlement agreement had been drafted for their consideration and described the history of the case.

Edward Libby, Jr. spoke on behalf of the Libby family, outlining his opposition to the claim that parcels had been marketed prematurely. Libby said he had consulted with the attorney for the Maine Association of Realtors and that she had felt no violation had occurred.

Bill Kelly responded and answered questions from the Board.

John French commented that it seemed clear that there had been an intent to get around the subdivision ordinance. Martin Cates commented that for the sake of the buyers, the situation should have been more professionally handled.

Leonard Lookner noted that the Planning Board should take a look at potentially vague definitions in land use ordinances.

John French made a motion to approve the proposed Settlement Agreement with C. Edward and Sylvia Libby of Camden as drafted, which includes \$1,000 in attorney fees and a \$2,000 civil penalty for violating the Subdivision Law. James Heard seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

3. Consideration of Appointment to the School Board to fill a vacancy until June 2013

The Select Board heard short presentations from each of the four candidates hoping to fill a short-term vacancy on the MSAD #28 School Board: John Lewis, Lynda Chilton, Dale Landrith, and David Lyman. The Board asked questions of each of the candidates and discussed their options for when to take a vote.

John French made a motion that the Select Board appoint John Lewis to fill a vacancy on the MSAD #28 School Board and serve for a term lasting until June, 2013. Leonard Lookner seconded the motion. It passed by a vote of 3-2-0, (Cates and White opposed).

All candidates were thanked for stepping forward and offering their service to the School District. Board members encouraged them to become involved and described opportunities with Town committees.

I. Select Board Closing Comments

There were no closing comments.

Adjourn

John French made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary