

**Camden Select Board
Minutes of Meeting
October 4, 2011**

PRESENT: Chairperson Martin Cates, Vice Chairperson Morgan Laidlaw, John French, Jr., James Heard, Donald White, Town Manager Roberta Smith, and Town Attorney William Kelly. Also present were members of the press and public

Contents

SELECT BOARD

1. Public Input on non-agenda items.

- a. Don White – Roger Lemar, Director of Smart Growth America’s Leadership Institute met with our Development Director Brian Hodges, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Wilson, CEDAC Chair Peter Gross, Jane Lefleur of Friends of Midcoast Maine and himself. They discussed future federal grant opportunities to do with economic development and regional and local transit.
- b. Morgan Laidlaw extended his congratulations to the Camden International Film Festival for a successful event. He also welcomed new Town Manager Patricia Finnigan.
- c. John French inquired when the proposed Fire Works Ban Ordinance was ready for discussion. Attorney Kelly stated not quite there yet. At some point there will a memo circulated explaining the rights individuals now have under this new legislation to have a fireworks display. There will also be an overview of some of the important points of the new statute. This can be put on as an agenda item and the Board can talk about what they would like or not like to see in the ordinance. One of the important points is going to be whether the town is going to elect to be able to sell fireworks in the community. This is something that the town can elect to prohibit but currently under state law the town cannot prohibit if someone wishes to have a firework display that is approved by the State Fire Marshall’s office.
- d. Martin Cates welcomed new Town Manager Patricia Finnigan and wished former Town Manager Roberta Smith well on her retirement.

2. Approval of Board Minutes from August 30, 2011. *John French made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.*

3. Review of the June 30, 2011 Audit Report with Greg Chabot of Runyon Kersteen Ouellette. Tim Gill presented the *DRAFT Audit Report* and answered questions as they arose. He presented a summary of the financial audit overview of the town audits which included the following: Town Assets, Liabilities, and Fund Equity, Revenues – General Fund, Expenditures – General Fund, Collections and tax rates, Fund Balance Analysis, Undesignated Fund Balance as a percentage of budget, and Revenues and Expenditures charts.

4. Presentation from Development Director Brian Hodges regarding a Project Canopy Grant opportunity from the Maine Forest Service. Jeff Kuller Parks & Recreation Director presented the grant in place of Brian Hodges whom was out ill. As many are aware, the Town’s ability to fund tree work has been drastically reduced and the number of homeowners participating in the shade tree planting program has waned. This program is available to state, county and municipal government, educational institutes and non-profit organizations for developing and implementing community forestry programs. This is a cooperative partnership

between the Department of Conservation and Conservation's Maine for GrowSmart Maine. This grant opportunity has the potential of leveraging our tree funding to enhance our tree planting programs. The Town of Camden has been a TREE CITY USA town for 16 years. This program will also enhance our chances of remaining a TREE CITY USA community because the intent of this grant is to be able to spend more money on trees.

Donald White made a motion to approve the Project Canopy Grant application as recommended. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

5. **Approval of request from PopTech Institute to use the town's government access channel 22 to air the Pop!Tech conference for public viewing on October 20-22, 2011.** Manager Smith reported as has been done in past years, Pop!Tech is requesting approval to broadcast their 2011 conference over the Town's access channel. This is a tremendous opportunity for the community and she recommends the Board grant approval.

John French made a motion to approve Pop!Tech's request to broadcast their 2011 Conference on Channel 22. James Heard seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

Chairperson Martin Cates read the rules and regulations for conducting public hearings in preparation of the public hearing to be held this evening.

6. **Public Hearings on the renewal application of Ravita, Inc. d/b/a Long Grain at 31 Elm Street for Class I Restaurant Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous Liquor License.** Manager Smith reported the application has been reviewed by the Police Chief and he reports no police incidents at this business over the last year.

Chairperson Cates asked to hear from any proponents. There were none.

Chairperson Cates asked to hear from any opponents. There were none.

Chairperson Cates closed the public portion of the hearing, no Board discussion ensued.

John French made a motion to approve the above Liquor License as requested above. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

7. **Consideration of renewal applications for the following:** Manager Smith reported the Code Enforcement Officer has signed off on these applications and the life safety inspections have been completed by the Fire Department.

- a. **Ravita, Inc., d/b/a Long Grain at 31 Elm Street for a victualer license**
- b. **Kristen & Jesse Bifulco, d/b/a Camden Windward House B&B at 6 High Street for victualer and lodging license.**
- c. **Heather Smith, d/b/a Elm Street Grill at 115 Elm Street for a victualer license**
- d. **Ellis Cohn, d/b/a The Inn at Camden Place at 14 Tannery Lane**

John French made a motion to approve the licenses a-d as stated above. James Heard seconded this motion. The motion passed on 5-0-0 vote.

- 8. Consideration of nominees for MRC Board of Directors.** The Board reviewed and discussed the nomination form for candidates to serve on the MRC Board of Directors, along with a list of current Board members and cover memo from Greg Lounder, MRC Clerk.

Martin Cates made a motion to nominate Robert Peabody, Jr. of Rockport for a MRC Board of Director. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

- 9. Consideration of a proposal for a tree planting on Public Landing.** Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Kuller asked for permission to plant a Valley Forge Elm Tree in a triangle of unused space near the bike rack on the Public Landing. This tree would not block the view of the harbor and eventually would be a good view of the harbor from all sides. He has been approached several times about putting some green space in there and he supports the idea. At one time Elm trees were a huge part of Camden. This tree is a hardy fast growing tree with a wine glass figure shape. The tree would grow to be approximately 12 feet tall when planted and at full growth will provide a canopy of 60 feet in diameter. Farley & Sons has offered to provide the tree at a reduced cost to the town, Marriner's Paving has offered the donation of providing the curbing, the Public Works Department will provide the excavation; and the Parks & Recreation will do some plantings of bulbs and other low maintenance plantings and will oversee the maintenance of the green space. The Harbormaster and Chamber of Commerce are in full support of the idea and businesses in the downtown in large support the concept. He would propose to do this work this Fall.

Public Works Director commented anything to do with asphalt is problematic with snow removal but this will not be any different than any other impediment that his crew is use to dealing with. He thinks it will work out fine if it is designed perpendicular.

Donald White made a motion to move forward with the tree planting as recommend and approved by the Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Kuller. James Heard seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

- 10. Approval of an annual Seabright Administration stipend.** Manager Smith reported since the Town took over the Seabright Hydroelectric facility, she has felt that there should be some compensation for the substantial added responsibility and workload. As the Board is aware, that responsibility and workload was added to the duties of our Wastewater Superintendent, Ross Parker.

She recommends that the Board approve a stipend for the Seabright Administration in the amount of \$100 per week. This would be an expense of the Seabright Hydro Fund that is offset with the revenues from generation.

John French made a motion to approve an annual stipend for the Seabright Manager in the amount of \$100 per week effective July 3, 2011. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

- 11. Consideration of filing a dangerous building enforcement action in Superior Court against Rosalie Alderson pursuant to 17 MRSA Section 2851, regarding property located at 6 Gosses Hill Road.** Board member French asked if the property has any unpaid tax liens that will expire in a few months which will put it into town ownership anyways. He inquired whether or not the Board should wait on any further action. The Board agreed to wait on a course of action, giving the Town Attorney time to assess the situation further.

The Board tabled action on this item.

- 12. Consideration of project agreement amendment for the Megunticook Lake Boating Facility Improvements – Route 105.** Manager Smith reported this is an amendment that will correct the project amount due to the actual bids received. The State of Maine is still providing full funding for the project.

Donald White made a motion to approve the amended project agreement with the State of Maine for the Megunticook Boating Facility Improvements – Route 105 not to exceed \$86,000. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

13. Committee Reports

- a. Board member Martin Cates attended the Conference last week held at the Strand in Rockland on education. It was very insightful.

14. Managers Report

- a. The Board reviewed with the Town Manager the monthly financial reports.
b. Manager Smith updated the Board on pending projects. Improvements at Laite Beach are almost complete; the Boat Ramp on 105 (Bog Bridge) is nearly complete; and that the work on the multi-use trail at the Camden Snow Bowl is completed and went well.

Town Attorney William Kelly swore in the new Town Manager Patricia Finnigan.

John French made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice L. Esancy
Recording Secretary