



**Town of Camden
Select Board Meeting
December 3, 2013 – 6:30 PM
Washington Street Conference Room**

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

ABSENT: James Heard

1. Call to Order

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

2. Citizen Comments

Jean Angelo–Gallace spoke in opposition to the fireworks during Christmas By the Sea weekend. He also spoke about the wording on the stop sign on Main Street as well as an environmental issue in Searsport.

Board Comments

Donald White told the group that the PAWS Annual Auction was coming up and talked about Christmas By the Sea starting on the 6th.

Leonard Lookner spoke about a letter that had been received by the Board from Sandy Welte in October concerning a recent right-of-way transaction. Chairperson Cates informed the group that the Town Attorney had responded to the letter. Cates also passed along regrets from James Heard for missing the meeting.

3. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

- A. Recognition of Officer Dan Brown on his promotion to Sergeant Police Chief Randy Gagne recognized Officer Dan Brown on his promotion to Sergeant. Gagne also introduced three of the department's newest officers, Wes Butler, Tim Davis, and Jeff Boudreau. The Board congratulated and welcomed all the officers to their new posts. Town Manager Finnigan added her congratulations to all the officers, saying we are fortunate to have such breadth and leadership among our police force.
- B. Report of the Parks & Recreation Committee Ray Andresen, Chair of Parks and Recreation, reported that the committee was finishing up an ambitious and successful year. He outlined the goals of the committee as contained in their 2013 Operating Plan and said that the committee had been engaged in the following activities: reviewing chapters 5, 6, and 15 of the Comprehensive Plan, supporting the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Committee, participating in the selection of a new director, and revising the strategic plan of the Parks and Rec Committee. He said that they are also compiling a list of needs for all of Camden's parks, and that they try to visit each of the 25 parks at least once a year. Andresen added that signage has become a priority for the committee and told the Board that a new initiative is underway to establish and promote local senior programs and activities.

Lastly, Andresen outlined several improvements are being considered for Shirttail Point Park in order to make it more accessible and to improve its appearance. He showed the Board a diagram of the committee's plans for the park. He also noted that there is currently one opening on the committee.

Leonard Lookner suggested that a list be put together of the benefactors who have given parklands to Camden over the years.

C. Report of the Camden-Rockport Pathways Committee

Geoff Scott, Chair of Pathways, outlined recent activities of the committee as follows: working on the Tannery section of the Riverwalk (50-75 volunteer hours donated); assisting in the Comp Plan process; updating the sidewalk inventory; supporting the RALA and ACE efforts; working with the Midcoast Transit Committee; and preparing RTP's for Seabright Park and for an area along the river near the Middle School.

D. Report of the Conservation Commission

Doug Johnson reported on the activities and goals of the Conservation Commission. He said they had once again completed Project Canopy and were updating the Natural Land Inventory. The Commission had also recertified Camden for the Tree City USA project. Other activities of the Commission include: working with Parks and Rec on Shirttail; supporting a new nature series program; providing support for the Riverwalk; working with Coastal Mountains Land Trust; helping to update the Comp Plan; and collaborating with other boards to look at what lands may need protection. Johnson noted that the Commission also needs one additional member at this time.

E. Vacancy on the Community and Economic Development Committee

The Town Manager noted that there is a vacancy on CEDAC because a recent addition to the committee, Dyke Messler, had resigned. John French pointed out that the number of CEDAC members had been increased to accommodate two new members instead of one. Chairperson Cates clarified that CEDAC expects this slot to be treated as an available opening.

F. Communication from the Town of Islesboro requesting that the Camden Select Board urge the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Statement (EIS) regarding the proposed dredging of Searsport Harbor.

Donald White made a motion to table this item until December 17 meeting due to the fact that James Heard was not able to be present. John French seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Select Board Minutes dated November 12, 2013

Donald White made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 12th meeting as presented. John French seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

5. Select Board Member Reports

Donald White reported that the Camden Library Board of Trustees had elected officers for 2014 with John Fitzgerald to serve as the President. White also reported that the Planning Board had two meetings scheduled, one being the final public hearing on Fox Hill on December 12th.

6. Town Manager Report

Pat Finnigan thanked the Chairs of the three committees who had given reports for their leadership and for the time they give to the Town of Camden through their work. She noted that the reports help to facilitate an important dialogue with the Select Board and help make the community aware of how active the committees are. Finnigan added that we are fortunate to have engaged citizens willing to share expertise and energy in this way.

7. New Business

A. Authorize the Town Manager to submit a Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) grant application

Finnigan told the group that the Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) provides matching grants for harbor improvements such as those proposed in the recently completed Public Landing Plan. Projects that would be eligible to be included in a SHIP grant would be:

1) Installing a fishermen's hoist at the Public Landing, and (2) widening the boardwalk along the Harbor. Finnigan explained that the required local match for the SHIP program is 50%, so if Camden is awarded the grant, the Town would be responsible for \$66,800.

There was some discussion on how wide the boardwalk would be and when construction would take place. Finnigan said that construction would be planned so as to minimize any impact on summer travelers. It was clarified that the local match would come from the harbor reserve fund.

Leonard Lookner made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to submit a Small Harbor Improvement Program grant application to install a fishermen's hoist with extension and widen the boardwalk, with \$66,840 as the Town's required 50% match. Donald White seconded the motion. It was passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

B. Request to Use Village Green

The Town Manager told the Board that a church group represented by Keith McCurdy of Camden had requested to use the Village Green on December 8 for two hours for a "Rosary Rally" (prayers). She said that the group would have two signs, that they expected about 20 people, and the event would be open to the public.

Discussion on this item focused around a past policy that disallowed religious or political use of the Village Green. Some members of the Board expressed concern about setting a precedent by

granting this request. It was noted that first amendment rights would cover religious expression in any case.

Donald White made a motion to grant permission for Keith McCurdy to use the Village Green on December 8 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 2-2, (French and Lookner opposed).

C. Public Hearing - Amendment to the Personnel Policy: Storm Policy

Martin Cates opened a public hearing.

Pat Finnigan offered background on the Town's Storm Policy, explaining that due to the fact that we live in Maine, it occasionally becomes necessary in severe storm events to close the Town Offices in order to ensure safety of employees and others. Finnigan said the policy currently being recommended by the Town's Personnel Committee was intended to address situations when she determines the Town Office should close and non-public safety employees should not report to or stay at work.

The policy has a long history, she said. In the spring of 2011, the Personnel Board had considered establishing a storm policy to address severe weather situations. Then on November 20th of this year, the Personnel Board had revisited the issue and had recommended a policy which had been unanimously approved by the committee. The committee spelled out its Storm Policy recommendation as follows: essential employees (police, fire, wastewater, Snow Bowl) would be required to work during storms, and non-essential employees (all others) would be asked to stay home if the Town Office is closed. Non-essential employees would be paid if the Town Office was closed due to severe weather.

Finnigan noted that this is standard industry practice and that public safety personnel (essential employees) understand when they take a job of this nature that they would be on duty even during storms. The Town Manager noted that it is understood that citizens rely on the services provided by the Town Government and the office will close due to storms only in exceptional circumstances when the safety of the employees and the public is at stake.

John French expressed the opinion that non-essential personnel who are asked to stay home due to weather should not get paid since the essential personnel must be on duty to get paid. The Board decided to address this further when all five Board members could be on hand to discuss it.

Donald White made a motion to table the Personnel Board's Storm Policy recommendation until all members of the Select Board could be present. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1, (French opposed).

Adjourn

Leonard Lookner made a motion to adjourn as Select Board and reconvene as Wastewater Commissioners. Donald White seconded the motion which was unanimously approved, and the Board adjourned.

Convene as the Camden Wastewater Commissioners

Approval of the Certificate of Commitment for Sewer User Charges (as required by Title 30-A; M.R.S.A. §3406) for the period of July 19, 2013 to October 22, 2013.

John French made a motion to approve the Certificate of Commitment of Sewer User Rates and collect quarterly, seasonal, and final bills for the period from July 19, 2013 through October 22, 2013 in the amount of \$252,649.11. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.

Adjourn

Donald White made a motion to adjourn as Wastewater Commissioners. Leonard Lookner seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Reconvene as the Select Board for an Executive Session: Town Manager's Performance Evaluation (Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 sub sections 6.A)

Leonard Lookner made a motion to reconvene as Select Board for an Executive Session to discuss the Town Manager's performance in accordance with Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 sub sections 6.A. John French seconded the motion. It passed unanimously and the Board went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary