



**Town of Camden**  
**Minutes of the Select Board Meeting**  
**January 21, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Chair Robert Falciani, Alison McKellar, Taylor Benzie, Marc Ratner, Jenna Lookner, & Town Manager Audra Caler-Bell. Also present were members of the public and press.

**ABSENT:** None

**Call to Order**

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

- 1. Public Input on non-agenda items: None**
- 2. Select Board Reports:** Taylor Benzie talked about the EMT course that United Training will be conducting in February; it will consist of 9 Camden firefighters, 6 Rockport firefighters, some Camden & Rockport police officers, 1 Hope firefighter, and one Town office employee. He said the State Bureau of Labor grant funded most of it. Alison McKellar said the State Historic Preservation Commission came out with their list of properties that they will be profiling during the Bicentennial of Statehood and there are 2 properties from Camden; they are the Chestnut Street historic district and the Thorndike Conway House (on the Camden/Rockport line). She also spoke about the cemetery meeting and having issues with the livestream. Marc Ratner spoke about the Energy Committee meeting and said that hopefully at the next Select Board meeting there will be a presentation by Janet McMahon from the Watershed school about the next steps for the Global Covert of Mayors. He also said that the students will be spending their whole second half of the year working on the steps for the Global Covert of Mayors. Ratner said the Opera House meeting will be livestreamed next week and they will be talking about booking and he spoke about the upcoming shows such as Comedian Juston McKinney, Rustic Overtones opening for Winterfest, and the free movie Ice Age. Ratner also said Jazz in June will be June 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Some of the artists are The Brubeck Brothers Quartet, Frank Vignolas Hot Jazz Guitar Trio, Harry Allen Quartet, Jim McNeely trio, Noah Fishman Group, Blue Fuse and The Whitehead/Dean Group and other artists.
- 3. Approval of Board Minutes from January 7, 2019:** Ratner wanted it to clarify that in section 8 when it says he was not in favor of charging a parking fee that it should say he was not in favor of changing and putting in a fee without them being present. McKellar said Daysailors needed to be changed to Daysailers and that in the section that speaks about the polystyrene ordinance it should say the polystyrene container ordinance. ***Ratner approved the minutes from January 7<sup>th</sup> with the changes. Benzie seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 4-0-1. Lookner abstained because she was absent from that meeting.***
- 4. Approval of request for the annual Snowplow Parade on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the US Toboggan Nationals events:** Erick Anderson spoke about the history of the Snowplow Parade and how he wanted it to continue. He also stated that nothing can be thrown from the vehicles. ***Ratner approved the annual Snowplow Parade to take place on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the US Toboggan Nationals. Lookner seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0-0.***
- 5. Charter Commission Update:** Deb Dodge and Lowrie Sargent spoke about the progress of the Charter Commission and what they are working on. They are trying to make it easier to understand, clearer and they will get rid of items that don't apply today. It is taking longer than they thought. Dodge asked for an extension for their final report. Dodge says their goal is to be ready for the November ballot. A discussion was had about different types of government. ***Benzie moved to extend the Charter Commission through the end of August 2020. Lookner seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0-0.***

6. **Approval of Extension of EMS Agreement with Northeast Mobile Health Services:** Audra Caler-Bell says there would be very little change from how the agreement is now; there would be an addendum changing how response times will be defined. The current response time is when Northeast acknowledges the call to when they arrive on scene; the new response time will be when they are toned out by Knox County Regional Communication Center to when they arrive on scene. **Ratner motioned to approve the extension of the EMS agreement with Northeast Mobile Health Services with the one change with the acknowledgement of times. Benzie seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0-0.**
7. **Presentation from Kirsten Surbey, downtown art galleries would like to organize a Camden Art Walk on third Thursdays from May to October 2020:** Colin Page spoke about having a more organized art walk every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from May-Oct. He would like to hang banners to advertise the event. Camden National Bank donated \$5,000 for advertised. It was discussed that the banners would stay up from May-Oct and come down when other events needed to hang their signs. **Ratner motioned to authorize the banners to be put up in town for the Art Walk on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from May-October 2020. Lookner seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0-0.**
8. **Approval of Opera House fundraising effort for seat cushions for the balcony in the Opera House Auditorium:** Dave Morrison spoke about the fundraiser he wanted to do to raise money for seat cushions for the balcony in the Opera House. A discussion was had about whether or not the Opera House should do their own Facebook fundraiser or if they should team up with one of their partners that are non-profits so they would keep all the donations instead of paying Facebook. Dave Morrison said they are trying to raise \$8,500 for cushions for the balcony seats. A discussion was had about the Opera House Committee coming to the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to meet them. The authorization is tabled for now. Morrison will come back to the board on February 4<sup>th</sup> to give an update. Morrison also discussed what the Community Art Fund is and how the donated monies are used.
9. **Approval of request to use Harbor Reserve Funds to replace sections of the float system at the Public Landing & Enforcement of Unencapsulated Polystyrene Ban:**  
Steve Pixley is asking for money to replace some of the old wooden floats at the dinghy dock that the fishermen use. They talked about the different types of decking and costs. **Ratner motioned to approve the decking of \$52,393 for standard decking. Benzie seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0-0.**  
A discussion was had about different ways they could remind people about taking out the unencapsulated polystyrene floats from the harbor such as letters and flyers. Pixley will get a list together of who needs to have it removed.
10. **Stone Mountain Sound Proposal – AV Improvements to French Conference Room:** Audra Caler-Bell asked the Select Board what they would like to see for audio and visual for the French conference room. The streaming device is being replaced. They spoke about things that aren't working well and what is working well. A discussion was had about Stone Mountain Sound and maybe having other companies come and do presales presentations. Bruce Hilsmeyer, the cameraman, would like to have two new cameras so he can get different angles. They spoke about the streaming device that is not working well and with the replacement it should take care of that problem. **Ratner motioned up to \$5,000 for two additional cameras for the system as detailed in the Stone Mountain proposal to be taken out of Select Board Contingency fund. McKellar Seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 4-1-0. Looker voted against.**

A discussion was had about having a talk about the browntail moth on February 4<sup>th</sup>. They also spoke about following up on items that were discussed in the past. Audra Caler-Bell said that tomorrow the Island Institute will be hosting the Penbay resiliency project engineering report and giving an overview to all municipalities involved. The RFP or RFQ about the solar panels is being worked on by Rich

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Roughgarden Caler-Bell stated. A discussion was had about whether or not to have a workshop about energy and solar. Caler-Bell updated everyone about the window inserts from Window Dressers starting to come into the building and is asking for volunteers.

**Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tac4PNNv0I4> to view the whole select board meeting.**

**ADJOURN**

*There being no further business before the Select Board Chair Falciani entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. No Discussion. Motion passed 4-0-0.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kendall Espinosa  
Recording Secretary