



**Town of Camden**  
**Minutes of the Select Board Meeting**  
**March 26, 2013**  
**6:30pm**

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

**ABSENT:** Leonard Lookner

**A. Call to Order**

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

**B. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions**

**1. Request from West Bay Rotary to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Duck Derby"**

West Bay Rotarians Mark Masterson and Peter Berke spoke to the board about an event planned by their club for May 25<sup>th</sup>, the second annual Duck Derby fundraiser. They described the event that would run from 11 o'clock to 2pm, with the goal of raising money to support community causes.

*Donald White made a motion to accept the request by the West Bay Rotary Club to hold their second annual Duck Derby on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by John French. It was unanimously approved.*

**2. Report of the Ragged Mt. Mountain Biking Work Group**

John Anders and Morgan Laidlaw appeared before the Board on behalf of the Ragged Mountain Biking work group to ask for support of their organizational business plan. Anders spoke about the organization's mission and vision, which are:

*Mission:* To provide a trail construction, maintenance, and management resource to care for local trails, with special emphasis on improving mountain biking opportunities by way of partnering with private landowners and stakeholders to develop legal access to these trails.

*Vision:* The Coastal Mountain region of Midcoast Maine will be a mountain bike destination on par with other nationally recognized trail systems. Mountain biking will be recognized by local businesses and residents as an important component of the local economy, health, and well-being of our communities.

Anders noted that the group's near-term goals are to identify a board of directors, to apply for nonprofit status, to choose a name for the organization, and to find a fiscal sponsor. He said the group would continue trail maintenance at the Snow Bowl with their volunteer base, and may begin to reach out to landowners with regard to beginning work on a trail to town from the Snow Bowl.

James Heard asked Anders about communication with Coastal Mountains Land Trust regarding maintaining the ecological integrity of CMLT lands. Anders said they'd held a positive discussion with CMLT and that everyone seemed to be on the same page. Anders noted his group also works closely with the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment Project's Land

Use Committee and has been active in the recreation area's sustainability plan.

John French congratulated the Mountain Bike Work Group on the hard work they had done to write their organizational plan.

Martin Cates said their business plan was excellent and should be a model for other similar efforts.

### **3. Town Clerk's Award for obtaining Certified Clerk of Maine status**

Pat Finnigan commended Town Clerk Katrina Oakes on her achievement in becoming a Certified Town Clerk of Maine. John French suggested that the Board send the Town Clerk a letter congratulating her on her work.

*John French made a motion to write a letter to thank the Town Clerk for her hard work and to congratulate her on obtaining this designation. Donald White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### **C. Citizen Comments**

There were no citizen comments. The Chair opened the floor to comments from the Board.

Don White commended everyone in the Parks and Recreation Department who took over to run the Snow Bowl under difficult circumstances this past winter. He said it was a job well done, noting that the Snow Bowl had enjoyed a very successful season.

### **D. Approval of Select Board Minutes dated March 5, 2013**

*Donald White made a motion to approve the minutes of the Select Board meeting dated March 5, 2013. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

### **E. Designation of Select Board Member Don White to represent Camden as the Government Sector representative on the Five Town Communities That Care Board**

Alex Orr, Development and Communications Director for Five Town Communities That Care, spoke about the organization's prevention-oriented activities and said that Don White had been invited to represent the government sector on their board. He also introduced Marti Wolfe, the program's new Community Coordinator.

*John French made a motion to appoint Don White to represent the Camden Select Board on the Board of Five Town Communities That Care. The motion was seconded by James Heard. It was unanimously approved.*

### **F. Request by the Camden Downtown Business Group to hold a Sidewalk Sale on May 17-19 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Flint Decker of the Camden Downtown Business Group requested permission for downtown retailers to hold sidewalk sales as part of the Business is Blooming event May 17-19th from 9 AM to 6 PM, with a kickoff reception on Thursday evening, May 16th.

John French asked how the code would be regulated, and Decker replied that the relevant

elements of the code would be distributed and explained in person to shopkeepers.

*Donald White made a motion to approve the request from the Downtown Business Group to hold a Sidewalk Sale on May 17-19 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by John French. It was unanimously approved.*

#### **G. Select Board Member Reports**

Donald White reported that the Camden Public Library is continuing its work on digitizing documents, a project they hope to wrap up by June. He said that the Regional Transit group was continuing its work as well, and that the consultants who had been hired to do a feasibility study have begun their survey.

White also reported that local school board leaders are anticipating that the school budget would go up in the neighborhood of 3.5% this year.

Martin Cates said that the date of the community meeting to address the proposed Riverwalk project had been set for April 1 at 6:30pm at the Camden – Rockport Middle School, and he invited public participation.

#### **H. Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Pat Finnigan reported that Camden's Budget Committee would hold its last meeting for this budget season on Thursday, March 28 at 7 o'clock, when they would hear from provider agencies and revisit selected items. She said that with regard to First Aid services, area town managers had issued an RFP on March 22nd in order to compare fees from various service providers. She said that area town managers were working collaboratively to assess next steps.

The Town Manager told the Board that the fire department had concluded its training exercise involving the burning of the building owned by Hannaford that had previously housed Lotus Restaurant. She noted that this had been a cooperative training exercise involving Camden, Rockport, Rockland and Hope fire departments and thanked Hannaford for donating the building for this purpose.

Finnigan said that the School department and Public Safety departments had also held a training exercise to address any emergency situation that could arise in our schools.

Lastly, the Town Manager reported on the success of the Camden Town Newsletter that is distributed electronically to over 500 subscribers.

John French commented that he had received feedback from local firefighters who'd participating in the training. He said those he spoke to had felt they had gotten a lot out of the recent exercise.

#### **I. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **J. New Business**

Chairperson Cates opened a public hearing to consider renewal liquor licenses.

### **1. Public hearing for renewal Liquor Licenses**

**a. Class I Restaurant, Malt and Spirituous Liquor License for 57 Bay View Bar & Bistro at 57 Bay View Street**

**b. Class I Restaurant, Malt and Spirituous Liquor License for Graffam Bros. Harborside Restaurant at 16 Public Landing**

**c. Class I Restaurant, Malt and Spirituous Liquor License for Camden Deli at 37 Main Street**

**d. Class I Restaurant, Malt and Spirituous Liquor License for 40 Paper at 40 Washington Street**

*John French made a motion to consider items a) through d) together. The motion was seconded by James Heard. It was unanimously approved.*

*John French made a motion to approve the renewal of the Class I Restaurant, Malt and Spirituous Liquor Licenses for 57 Bay View Bar & Bistro, Graffam Bros. Harborside Restaurant, The Camden Deli, and 40 Paper. The motion was seconded by James Heard. It was unanimously approved.*

### **2. Consideration of Victualer and Lodging License for new owners, Susan Walser and Philip Crispo of the Norumbega Inn at 63 High Street**

*John French made a motion to approve the Victualer and Lodging License for new owners, Susan Walser and Philip Crispo of the Norumbega Inn at 63 High Street. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

The public hearing was closed.

### **3. Consideration of Resolution to Oppose Provisions in the Proposed State Budget which would Eliminate the Revenue Sharing Program and Eliminate the Homestead Program and the Circuit Break Program for anyone under the age of 65**

Pat Finnigan described the effects that proposed changes in the Revenue Sharing, Homestead, and Circuit Breaker programs in the state budget would have on municipalities if passed. She told the Board that the proposal regarding Revenue Sharing would eliminate \$300,000 that Camden receives from the State. Finnigan said the State's contribution level had been \$400,000 at one time, and that it had experienced a slow decline over the last eight years.

Finnigan described how this is the oldest and most effective program for property tax relief in the State of Maine. It had been originally formulated, she said, to make our tax structure less regressive and was based on a fair formula that balanced valuation and population. She detailed for the Board how these proposed changes at the State level could affect families and residents as well as adversely affecting Town governments.

Finnigan recommended the adoption of a resolution to oppose provisions in the proposed state budget that would eliminate the revenue-sharing program and eliminate the homestead exemption program and the circuit breaker program for anyone under the age of 65.

*John French made a motion to approve the Resolution and send it to our Legislators and the Legislative Leadership. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

**4. Set date for Public Hearing: Fire Prevention & Protection Ordinance**

Pat Finnigan described how the proposed amendment would allow the Fire Chief, in addition to the Code Enforcement Officer, to enforce building code issues under the Maine Uniform Building Code.

John French asked about the final appeal process that had been removed from the ordinance.

*John French made a motion to set April 2 as the date to hold a Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Fire Prevention & Protection Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Donald White, It was unanimously approved.*

**5. Consideration of nominees to the Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission for the following terms:**

Carmine Pecorelli of Belmont – 2-year term;  
Jonathan Eaton of Thomaston - 1 year term;  
Mary Jane West of Union – 1 year term;  
Pat Finnigan of Camden – 1 year term.

*John French made a motion to support the nominees to the Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission Board. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

**6. Designation of Martin Cates as the Primary Member and Pat Finnigan as the Alternate Voting Member of the Maine Service Center Coalition**

*James Heard made a motion to support the nomination of Martin Cates as the Primary Member and Pat Finnigan as the Alternate Voting Member of the Maine Service Center Coalition. The motion was seconded by John French. It was unanimously approved.*

**K. Select Board Closing Comments**

There were no closing comments.

**Adjourn as Select Board and Reconvene as Board of Assessors**

*Donald White made a motion to adjourn as Select Board and Reconvene as Board of Assessors. John French seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board of Assessors convened at 7:44pm.*

### **Board of Assessors**

**1. Consideration of a request by Mary & Francis Middleton to reduce the assessed value of her property located at 164 Mountain Street from \$277,800 to \$182,000 and abate the taxes.**

*John French made a motion to deny the Middleton's request for an abatement of \$95,800 in valuation, from \$278,200 (land & building) to \$182,400. The motion was seconded by James Heard. It was unanimously approved.*

**2. Consideration of a request by Robert & Andrea Collins to reduce the assessed value of their property located at 4 Stetson Avenue from \$1,476,000 to \$889,142 and abate the taxes.**

*John French made a motion to deny the applicants' request for an abatement of \$586,858 in valuation, from \$2,434,400 (land & building) to \$1,847,542. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

### **Adjourn**

*John French made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Donald White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board adjourned at 7:46 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace  
Recording Secretary