



Town of Camden

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting July 14, 2015

Present: Chair, John French, Select Board Members, Don White, Leonard Lookner, Martin Cates, James Heard, and Town Manager, Pat Finnigan. Also present were citizens and members of the press.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

1. Regional Junior Olympic Sailing Festival

Up to 150 small boats will be launching at the Camden Yacht Club and Steamboat Landing. Participants will be arriving in Camden from all over the state of Maine. Sue Conover, who is the Ski Race Coach at the Snow Bowl, is the organizer of this event. She and Harbor Master, Steve Pixley, spoke in favor of this event.

2. Presentation by Watershed School students re: research project: "A Carbon Neutral Camden"

Last June, the sophomores at Watershed School presented their preliminary research on different ways Camden can transition to non-carbon energy. The students, Warren, Peter, and Gillian Galloway, presented highlights of their research. Also in attendance with the students, was Watershed Instructor, Janet McMahon. It was suggested by Select Board Member, Don White that perhaps it was time to re-establish the Energy Committee and have students serve on it as well. Many members of the public were given the chance to speak on the topic. Several people suggested the new Committee should include the concept of sustainability. The Chair concluded the discussion by saying the Select Board should establish a new committee at the next Select Board Meeting agenda.

3. Presentation by ReVision energy re: Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

The solar energy provider Revision Energy presented a proposal for Camden to evaluate installing a solar energy array on one or more of the municipal buildings. The purpose would be to use renewable/green energy, and help flatten/reduce the Town's electricity costs.

Presenting was Bob Behrens, co-founder of ReVision Energy. The discussion by the Select Board Members, and members of the public, included financial costs, best placement of solar panels, structural integrity of buildings, time sensitivity of tax credits. Members of the public spoke in favor of this direction and reiterated that an energy and sustainability committee would be helpful in this effort.

Leonard Lookner made a motion, which was seconded by Don White, to contact the Town engineers to assess the roofs for solar panel installations, and to ask the Town Attorney to review the proposal, and report back to the Board within 30 days. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Request to close Central Street for the annual Block Party on July 25 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

James Heard made a motion to allow Central Street to be closed for the annual Central Street Block Party on July 25 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Don White seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

C. Citizen Comments

Mark Ratner, Chair of the Opera House Committee, gave an update regarding the Opera House Committee meeting and upcoming events. He said that he has opposed windmill power, and preferred solar power. He also asked for the Town to make improvements to information the Town provides to citizens regarding voting and elections, from putting information on the website to including candidate statements, and asked that this to be reviewed at the next Select Board meeting.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the Board. The only comment came from Chairperson, John French, who said that the Board could not promise that this would be on the next agenda, as the next Agenda may already be set, but it would be considered.

Willard Wight came forward to thank the Select Board for dedicating the Annual Town Report to him. He said it was an honor to be recognized and he is happy to be a life-long resident of Camden.

Alison McKellar asked that the Municipal Calendar be updated more frequently. She also had questions regarding the Midcoast Solid Waste Corporation Board and how to become more involved there. She would like to get more involved in the community, and hopes that other young parents will do the same.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the Board. The only comment came from the Chair, who suggested Ms. McKellar look into the future Energy and Sustainability Committee.

Richard Householder, Planning Board Vice Chair, spoke about Rockport and Camden's joint meetings that have taken place regarding the "Southern Gateway" and both towns have agreed that most important in this joint venture is safety and the visual appearance. Mr. Householder has suggested that the Select Board should consider purchasing the property formerly known as "McDuck's" which is on the market.

Sarah Holland suggested that the McDuck's site would be a great spot to put in an Electrical Vehicle (EV) Charging Station, which had been part of the earlier discussion on sustainability.

Beedy Parker reported that she had been on a waste reduction committee many years ago and noted that recycling rates were not very high, and she wondered if it had changed any since.

D. Approval of Select Board Minutes of June 16 and June 29, 2015

Member, Don White, made a motion to table both sets of minutes until a later date. Member, Leonard Lookner, seconded this motion, and it carried 5-0.

E. Select Board Member Reports

Member, Leonard Lookner, read an opinion piece he wrote regarding the Tannery Property.

F. Town Manager Report

The Town Manager thanked citizens Mark Ratner and Alison McKellar for their suggestions and requests to provide more information to the public. She said that the Town strives to provide information but can always improve communications.

G. New Business

- 1. Grant a revocable license for the maintenance, repair and use of the stone wall, garden and parking area located at 11 North Lewis Avenue.**

James Heard, made a motion to approve the revocable license for the stone wall, garden and parking area at 11 North Lewis Street to remain, which was seconded by Martin Cates. The motion passed 5-0.

- 2. Authorize payment of the 2015 Knox County Tax Assessment in the amount of \$1,124,041.09 and the Regional Communications Center Fees in the amount of \$126,497.**

Don White made the motion to approve the 2015 Knox County tax assessment of \$1,070,830.45 and cost of 9-1-1 services of \$125,600 for a total amount of \$1,250,538.09, which was seconded by James Heard. The motion passed 5-0.

- 3. Authorize issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$1,650,000 at an interest rate of 0.77% through Camden National Bank**

Don White made a motion to authorize issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) up to \$1.65 million at an interest rate of .77% through Camden National Bank. Martin Cates, seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

- 4. Consideration of request by the Camden Garden Club to use the Village Green on August 21, 2015 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to celebrate its Centennial.**

James Heard made a motion to approve the request of the Camden Garden Club to use the Village Green on August 21, 2015 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Don White seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

- 5. Appointment of Karen Brace as a voting member of the General Assembly of the Midcoast Council of Governments**

Don White mad a motion which was seconded by Martin Cates to appoint Karen Brace as a voting member of the Midcoast Council of Governments General Assembly. The motion passed 5-0.

- 6. Appointment of the following people to the Planning Board: James Elliott as a regular member for a term of 5 years (expires 2020) and Jan McKinnon as an alternate for a term of 1 year (expires 2016)**

Leonard Lookner made a motion to appoint James Elliott as a regular member to the Planning Board for a 5-year term, and appoint Jan McKinnon as an Alternate Member for a 1 year term. Don White seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

7. Election of members to the Maine Municipal Association Executive Committee: Laurie Smith, Kennebunkport Town Manager as Vice President, and the following as Directors: William Bridgeo, Augusta City Manager, Michael Crooker, Town Manager of Glenburn, and Marianne Moore, Mayor of Calais.

Member, Martin Cates made a motion to cast a ballot for the MMA Executive Committee as follows: Laurie Smith, Kennebunkport Town Manager as Vice President, and the following as Directors: William Bridgeo, Augusta City Manager, Michael Crooker, Town Manager of Glenburn, and Marianne Moore, Mayor of Calais. Don White, seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Adjourn

Martin Cates, made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Don White. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora E. McGrath
Recording Secretary