



Town of Camden  
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting  
**July 16, 2013**  
**6:30pm**

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

**A. Call to Order**

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

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

**1. Presentation regarding Designating Camden as an Active Community Environment (ACE) and Establishing an ACE Team**

Development Director Brian Hodges talked about how several of Camden's current initiatives focus on providing residents and visitors with walkable options and access to physical activity. Hodges introduced Jennifer Gunderman-King, Coordinator of the Midcoast Community Transformation Grant, who spoke about a proposed designation for Camden as an Active Community Environment (ACE) town. The Downtown Network Board meets the criteria to be designated as the Town's ACE Team.

*James Heard made a motion to designate Camden as an Active Community Environment (ACE) and delegate the role of ACE team to the Camden Downtown Network Board. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**2. Report by the Mountain Bike Work Group**

Morgan Laidlaw and John Anders of the Mountain Bike Work Group presented an update on the group's recent work and requested permission to use Town-owned land off the Rollins Road for an access point for a bike trail. They also requested permission for the Mountain Bike Work Group, which will soon be called "Rock Coast Trails," to build mountain bike trails on Sagamore Farm Road land which abuts Camden Hills State Park.

*Leonard Lookner made a motion to grant permission for the Mountain Bike Group to use Town-owned property on Rollin Road and Sagamore Farm Road to access trails and to build trails. The motion was seconded by Don White. It was unanimously approved.*

**3. Presentation regarding the Camden Fire Department's 1949 Willys Jeep**

Fire Chief Chris Farley spoke to the Board about the Fire Department's 1949 Willys Jeep that has been in storage for many years in a garage at the Town's Wastewater facility. Farley said that the Owl's Head Transportation Museum has expressed interest in arranging for a long-term loan of this vehicle from the Town to the Museum. The Chief explained that the Museum would use the Jeep as its flight safety vehicle during car and air shows at the museum. Jenna Lookner, Public Relations Director at OHTM, spoke to the Board about the Museum's plans involving the truck.

*Don White made a motion to permit the Town Manager, Fire Chief and Owls Head Transportation Museum officials to enter into a mutually agreed upon arrangement to allow the Camden Fire Department's 1949 Willys Jeep to be on a long-term loan to the Owls Head Transportation Museum. James Heard seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

#### **4. Communication regarding Lac-Megantic, Quebec, Canada**

Pat Finnigan spoke about the recent train derailment tragedy in Lac-Megantic, Quebec. She described how firefighters from many neighboring Maine towns had traveled to Lac-Megantic to help get the blaze under control. Farmington, Maine is the sister city of Lac-Megantic. The Farmington Board of Selectmen voted to establish a relief account to help Lac-Megantic in its recovery efforts. Farmington has asked that each municipality consider making a donation to the recovery effort and that it help to make citizens aware of the opportunity to donate to the relief effort. Board members asked that consideration of a donation be placed on the next agenda.

#### **C. Citizen Comments**

Steven Gold of the Harbor Committee informed the Board that the committee had voted to establish an outhaul at Curtis Island to make it easier for dinghies to access the Island.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the Board.

Don White spoke about the upcoming Harbor Arts and Crafts Show and Library Book Sale. He also congratulated Dave Jackson on his work to designate our amphitheatre as a National Historic Landmark. Jackson was commended by the Board.

Leonard Lookner spoke about a letter from Barbara Dyer that had appeared in the paper referencing the use of parts of the public landing by private enterprise.

#### **D. Tabled Business**

##### **1. Review and Award bid for the Melvin Heights Culvert Replacement**

The Town Manager introduced Civil Engineer Andrew Hedrich of Gartley & Dorskey. Hedrich offered background on the Melvin Heights Culvert Replacement work that is scheduled. He described requirements of the DEP and the details of the construction. The Board asked questions and there was some discussion on this project.

*John French made a motion to award the contract for the Melvin Heights culvert replacement project to Jake Barbour, Inc. in the amount of \$22,900. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

#### **E. Approval of Select Board Minutes**

*Don White made a motion to approve the minutes of the Select Board meeting dated July 2, 2013 as presented. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

## **F. Select Board Member Reports**

Don White reported that he had attended Historic Resources Committee where the new displays being constructed for the Curtis Island lighthouse had been reviewed. White said that at the Planning Board's recent meeting they had welcomed one new regular member and two alternates. He noted that the Planning Board had discussed the Mt. Battie Street project along with their ongoing work on the Comp Plan.

Jim Heard gave the Board an update on the progress of the Ragged Mountain Recreation Redevelopment Campaign. He said that the committee had raised \$3,874,293 to date toward their \$4.5 million goal. Heard noted the time is getting closer to when the Select Board will consider the committee's request to put the item on the November ballot, and that it will be important for the Redevelopment group to get the word out to the voters.

Heard reported that he had also attended a Parks and Recreation meeting where the use of the sports field had been discussed. Board members discussed at some length whether the field is being over-used. Ray Andreaus, Chair of Parks and Rec said that the field is reserved for 300 hours per year by community leagues. He noted that the field is also used for parking during Toboggan weekend, if conditions are not too wet. This produces about \$2000 in revenue, he told the Board.

Beth Ward, Interim Director of the Snow Bowl, also addressed the field situation. She said that in the fall they get requests to use the field from Five Town Football, club team soccer, and adult frisbee leagues. In the spring the YMCA's youth lacrosse program utilizes the field. During the summer, the adult softball leagues play there, which has less impact, Ward noted, since the fall and spring sports involve cleats.

The Middle School field was discussed as an additional resource for these groups.

## **G. New Business**

### **1. Consideration of gift of land surrounding portions of Bay Road**

Attorney Ed Doudera spoke about a donation of land to the Town in conjunction with a transfer of property along Bay Road. He explained that the property has been the location of an easement for a Town road that had been established in 1938. Doudera described some minor restrictions that would accompany the deed and told the Board that there would be no loss of tax revenue to the Town. Pat Finnigan said the donation meets all the Town's legal requirements.

*John French made a motion to accept the deed that had been provided including its covenants and including its easement provisions. Don White seconded the motion.*

There was some discussion on the restrictions that accompany the deed.

*John French amended his motion to include the language provided by Attorney Ed Doudera regarding the fact that no walkway, steps or means of access from the top of the existing bank to the shore shall be permitted. Don White seconded the amended motion. It was approved unanimously.*

**2. Consideration of an Amendment to the Town Charter Article VI Section 14 (e) to change the terms of Planning Board members from 5 years to 3 years.**

There was discussion on amending Article VI of the Town charter to reduce the terms of residents who serve on Camden's Planning Board from 5 years to 3 years. The proposed change had grown out of a recent situation where it had been difficult to find people to serve on the Planning Board for a five-year term. Don White said that the Planning Board had discussed this and that some Planning Board members were opposed to this change. John French noted that young people with families may be able to serve if the term were shorter.

*John French made a motion to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 6 to consider a proposed Charter amendment to reduce the Planning Board terms from 5 years to 3 years. James Heard seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**3. Consideration of a Proposed Policy to Promote a Smoke-free Environment in Municipal Playgrounds, Beaches, Parks, Athletic Facilities, Trails and Open Spaces**

Pat Finnigan described the proposed policy to make the Town's recreational areas smoke-free. Beth Ward showed the Board samples of the "Tobacco-Free" signs that are posted at the Snow Bowl.

Nikki Maounis, Director of the Camden Public Library, spoke in favor of working to create a clean and safe environment in the parks through passage of the policy.

Ray Andreaus asked if the policy would apply to the Public Landing. The Town Manager stated that it would.

*Don White made a motion to approve the Policy to Promote a Smoke-free Environment in Municipal Playgrounds, Beaches, Parks, Facilities, Trails, and Open Spaces. Leonard Lookner seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**4. Approval of renewal license agreement with Maine Media Workshops, Inc. for filming on public ways and town properties.**

Finnigan noted that we are fortunate to have Maine Media in our community.

*John French made a motion to approve the renewal License Agreement with Maine Media Workshops, Inc. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**5. Approval of the Taxicab Business License renewal application for Barbara M. Simpson of So. Thomaston d/b/a Hit the Road.**

*John French made a motion to approve the renewal of Barbara Simpson's taxicab business license for Hit the Road contingent on the Police Chief's approval. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

**6. Approval of Taxicab Operator's Licenses for Vernon Lee Thompson and Ricky B. Simpson.**

*John French made a motion to approve the applications of Vernon Lee Thompson and Ricky D. Simpson for renewal taxicab driver's licenses contingent on Police Chief's approval. James Heard seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

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

Pat Finnigan updated the Board on the erosion-control project planned for the "Woolen Bridge" located on Route 52 at Ames Terrace that will be done during the month of August.

Finnigan informed the Board about continued repercussions resulting from reductions in the State budget. She said that due to the cuts to revenue sharing, credit rating agencies are taking note that the cuts will increase city and towns' dependence on property taxes, so therefore Maine's municipalities have been placed on Credit Outlook status.

The Town Manager noted that a vacancy on the School Board had been created that will need to be filled. The Board discussed their process for this.

Lastly, Finnigan said that the office is arranging an opportunity for the Select Board to tour Curtis Island.

#### **I. Select Board Closing Comments**

Leonard Lookner said he felt very positive about Town's efforts to make our public areas into a non-smoking campus.

#### **Adjourn**

*John French made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace  
Recording Secretary