



**Town of Camden
Select Board Meeting
September 15, 2015**

Minutes

Present: Select Board Chair John French and 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) Report by School Superintendent, Maria Libby, and Assistant Superintendent, Gary Gonyar.

Superintendent, Maria Libby said that she wanted to establish a strong working relationship with the Select Board and the community and would like to present updates periodically. After introducing themselves, Maria Libby reported on two primary topics. The first issue pertained to special education students. The District has more special education students than were budgeted. The District never knows for certain the final number of students until school starts. This will require more funds than were budgeted. There is funding to cover those costs, however because it will exceed the budgeted amount, the voters must approve the funding. She asked to have this question on the November ballot.

Superintendent Libby then reported that the School Board has been meeting with citizen focus groups to understand why the proposed new Middle School did not receive voter approval. She said that most people did not think the School District explained it well enough for people to understand why the School Board thought the school project was needed. Based on that feedback, the School Board has decided to move forward with a revised proposal that will involve and inform the public. The School Board hopes to bring a renewed Middle School project back to voters in November, 2017. She reported that a Committee will be forming and she hoped that a Select Board member will be on it. She said the goal is for the School District to work collaboratively with the Select Board and the community.

C. Citizen Comments

Anita Brosius-Scott spoke on two topics. First, thanking the Town Manager and the Select Board for their support of the Riverwalk Celebration, noting the public's use enhances the community. Secondly, she said she supported the efforts to put solar panels on Town owned roofs. She then asked about the Town Manager about the status of that work and if there was a timeline. Pat Finnigan replied that based on a structural engineer's review, the Public Works buildings are not suitable without doing some structural work. She said the Public Safety Building is currently being reviewed to see if it is a suitable site for solar panels.

Mark Ratner, Chair of the Opera House Committee provided an update on the Committee's activities and how successful the recent Camden International Film Festival (CIFF) had been.

D. Approval of Select Board Minutes dated September 1, 2015

Martin Cates made a motion to accept the minutes, and James Heard seconded this. The motion passed 5-0.

E. Select Board Member Reports

Don White reported he had attended several meetings: the Planning Board meeting which included a Board orientation session presented by Town Attorney Kristin Kelly, the Opera House Committee meeting which noted the successful season of summer concerts which ended with an Opera House concert as part of the Windjammer Festival, and the Historic Resources Committee. He reported that the Garden Club would begin its rehabilitation of the Village Green plantings this fall. He also welcomed Opera House Technical Services manager Dave Morrison.

Leonard Lookner reported on the Harbor Committee meeting which included a discussion of reserve funds and maintenance issues at the Public Landing.

Jims Heard reported that he had attended the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting and their plan to continue to visit and do an assessment of the public parks.

F. Town Manager Report

Pat Finnigan turned the podium over to Community Development Director, Karen Brace, to update the Board and the public on several projects and events. Karen reported on plans for CIFF which would be in that weekend, PopTech which will be taking place October 22-24, new businesses including Lyman Morse at Wayfarer Marine, Heiwa Tofu which is expanding and locating in Camden, and the Windjammer Festival which was a great success. Karen also thanked student volunteers from the CHRHS for reaching out to her office to make the community aware of their volunteer website.

G. Old Business

1. Harbor Ordinance Amendments

The Harbor Ordinance amendment has been tabled to give the Town Attorney time to review the amendments. Harbor Committee Chair Gene McKeever said it was the recommendation of the Harbor Committee that the Select Board not put the proposed amendments on the November ballot. The Committee would like to have additional time to bring forward more substantial amendments than the housekeeping amendments that were proposed. The Select Board discussed the options.

Don White made a motion to move the amendments forward, bringing the technical aspect before the Town Attorney and the Town Manager to review, and then move to the voters in November. Martin Cates seconded this. The motion passed 3-2, with Members Lookner and Heard dissenting.

2. Consideration of the renewal of a Class III Restaurant Vinous Liquor License for Long Grain restaurant located at 31 Elm Street

Don White made a motion to renew the Class III Restaurant Vinous Liquor License for Long Grain restaurant located at 31 Elm Street. Martin Cates seconded this, and the motion passed 5-0.

H. New Business

1. Countersignature of a District Special Budget Validation Referendum Warrant and Notice of Election for Five Town Community School District

This topic was brought forward and explained by School Superintendent Maria Libby during her report earlier in the meeting (Agenda item B).

Martin Cates made a motion to countersign the warrant for a special election to amend the School budget to fund unanticipated special education costs. Don White seconded this. The motion passed 5-0.

2. Public Hearing: Proposed Subdivision Ordinance Amendment

Kristin Collins explained the changes which were primarily to clarify uses on the first floor in the downtown and define terms including “commercial” and “congregate housing.”

Don White made a motion to approve the proposed subdivision ordinance amendment regarding congregate housing and send them referendum vote in November. Martin Cates seconded this, and the motion passed 5-0.

3. Order to place the following questions on a municipal referendum ballot to be voted upon at the November 3, 2015 election:

1. Shall an ordinance entitled “November 2015 amendments to the Town of Camden Zoning Ordinance” be enacted? (A copy of said Ordinance is available at the Town Office)
2. Shall an ordinance entitled “November 2015 amendments to the Harbor and Waterways Ordinance of the Town of Camden” be enacted? (A copy of said Ordinance is available at the Town Office)
3. Shall Article 3, Section 2 of the Town of Camden Subdivision Ordinance be amended as follows? (New language is shown as underlined)

Dwelling Unit: A room or group of rooms within a dwelling, designed and equipped as living quarters for a person or for a family, including provisions for living, sleeping, bathing and cooking. Individual units within a Congregate Housing Facility as defined by the Zoning Ordinance shall be considered dwelling units.

Multifamily Development: A subdivision that contains three (3) or more dwelling units on land in common ownership, such as apartment buildings, congregate housing, condominiums, or mobile home parks.

Don White made a motion to approve the Order for a Municipal Referendum Election on three Ordinance Amendment questions. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Confirmation of Peter Gross as Election Warden, and Establish the Registrar of Voters' office hours for the November 3, 2015 Special Town Meeting

Don White made a motion to confirm Peter Gross as Election Warden, and set the voter registration hours as recommended by the Town Clerk. Martin Cates seconded this, and the motion passed 5-0.

5. Appointment of Members to the Energy and Sustainability Committee

The Select Board discussed the applications they had received from people interested in serving on the Energy Committee. A list of 7 applicants were read and some discussion among the Select Board took place regarding these applicants and the size of the final committee. Dana Strout read a letter written by Dorie Klein regarding the addition of applicants younger than 18 years of age. Anita Brosius-Scott said that she had filled out an application and was not mentioned in the list of applicants. She was then added to the list of applicants. One person, Allison McKeller, had applied to be on the Conservation Committee not the energy Committee.

Don White made a motion to appoint the following people to the Energy Committee: Anita Brosius Scott, Tom Edge, Ken Gross, Peter Kalajian, Steven Moskowitz, Marc Ratner, Brian Robinson, Marina Schaffler, Dana Strout, and Peter Galloway (student member) and that they present their goals to the Select Board within 45 days from their first meeting. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Don White made a motion to appoint Allison McKeller to serve on the Conservation Committee. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

6. Renewal of a Victualers and Lodging License for Abigail's Inn at 8 High Street

Martin Cates made a motion to approve the renewal of the Victualers and Lodging License for Abigail's Inn at 8 High Street. Don White seconded this, and the motion passed 5-0.

7. Request to use the Village Green by Keith McCurdy on Saturday, October 10th for a prayer group from noon to 2:00 p.m.

There was some discussion between the Select Board and Attorney Collins regarding the use of the Village Green. Leonard Lookner questioned the appropriateness of such a gathering. Attorney Collins explained that this type of speech is protected by the First Amendment and is allowed.

James Heard made a motion to approve the request by Keith McCurdy to use the Village Green on October 10th for a prayer group from noon to 2:00 p.m. Don White seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1, with Leonard Lookner dissenting.

8. Set September 22 as a meeting of the Select Board and the Board of Assessors

This meeting is necessary to meet with the Assessors Agent to discuss and approve the Tax Commitment (the amount of taxes to be collected, the tax rate, and the overlay). Taxes are

due November 15. After approval, the tax bills must be printed and sent. This will give people about 6 weeks' notice of their taxes due.

Don White made a motion to set a meeting of the Select Board as the Board of Assessors on September 22, 2015. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

9. Discussion of Tax Acquired Property Policy

The Town attorney presented a prepared a policy for the Town regarding its' tax acquired property, that the Town sees fit to sell. Attorney, Kristin Collins, gave the Board the wording and said that this policy is now more in line with other Towns.

Don White made a motion to accept the Policy as written. Martin Cates seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Adjourn

At 8:30 pm Don White made a motion to adjourn. Martin Cates seconded the motion, The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora E. McGrath, Recording Secretary