



Town of Camden
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
December 17, 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.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

- A. Communication from the Town of Islesboro requesting that the Camden Select Board urge the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Statement (EIS) regarding the proposed dredging of Searsport Harbor.

Arch Gilles, Chair of the Islesboro Select Board along with Steve Miller, Executive Director of the Islesboro Island Trust spoke to the Board about dredging Searsport Harbor. They described their concern that the volume of material to be dredged out of the harbor (previously 37,000 cubic yards) had risen to a proposed volume of one million cubic yards during the coming year. They said that the dumping spot for this material was unknown at this point but could turn out to be near the Rockland – Camden area. Gilles and Miller requested that the Camden Select Board send a letter asking the Army Corps of Engineers to issue an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that would study the project's impact on marine life, recreation, and land values among other factors. Gilles clarified that they are not opposed to the original maintenance dredging amount of 37,000 cubic yards from the harbor.

John French pointed out that if larger ships could turn in the harbor after the proposed dredging, an increase in business coming into the port could mean more jobs for the area. Miller said that the large tankers need 35' to turn which is already provided for, and not the 40' that was being planned for.

Cates expressed concern that any letter prepared by the Town of Camden should maintain a neutral position.

Donald White made a motion to request that the Town Manager draft a non-committal letter asking the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact statement studying the Searsport Harbor dredging. Leonard Lookner seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1-0 (French opposed).

3. Citizen Comments

Robert Davis of Camden requested to be included in upcoming discussions regarding reworking the intersection of John Street & Route 1.

Board Comments

Donald White urged drivers to keep safety in mind these holidays with the snowy roads and kids out of school. He thanked public works and the safety personnel for their diligence during bad weather and reminded everyone that the Snow Bowl would be opening that Friday.

4. Approval of Select Board Minutes dated December 3, 2013

Donald White made a motion that the Board accepts the minutes dated December 3, 2013. The motion was seconded by French and unanimously approved.

5. Select Board Member Reports

Donald White reported on a meeting of the Historic Resources Committee where Garden Club issues were discussed along with the Village Green policy. White said that at a recent Planning Board meeting, an application for a pier in the outer harbor was supported and passed onto the Select Board for approval. Also, an information session was held regarding potential expansion of the Camden Harbor Inn. Lastly he told the group that the Midcoast Transit Committee had received a draft of the final report from the consultants regarding a new transit system.

Leonard Lookner said that at the recent Pathways Committee meeting, a vision was formulated that will be passed to the Planning Board for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan.

Martin Cates reported that the joint meetings between the Camden and Rockport Select Boards and between the Camden Select Board and Planning Board are now occurring quarterly.

6. New Business

A. Consideration of applications to fill Committee vacancies:

- 1) Budget Committee - Brett Lerner
- 2) Historic Resources – Susan Neves

The applicants each spoke briefly about their qualifications and interest in serving on the committees.

John French made a motion to appoint Brett Lerner to the Budget Committee. Donald White seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Donald White made a motion to appoint Susan Neves to the Historic Resources Committee. James Heard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Consideration of 2014 Commercial Fishermen's Float Permit Applications (Harbor Ordinance Article V Section 2)

Gene McKeever, Chair of the Harbor Committee, told the Board that the committee was in support of all ten applications for commercial fisherman float permits.

John French made a motion to approve Fishermen Float Permits for Arthur Andrews, Barney Appleton, David Emery, Robert Ogier, Adam C. Scott, Brad Scott, Gary Talbot, Amy Thompson, Art Tibbetts, and Toby Wincklhofer. James Heard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Consideration of the 2014 Daysailer Licenses - Harbor Ordinance Article V Section 3

Gene McKeever spoke about the positive economic impact and appeal that the daysailers bring to Camden.

There was discussion on the increase in the number of daysailer licenses from 5 to 6. Maximum allowed is 7, with the seventh being intended for a vessel offering day-long trips that would not tie up the dock. The sixth boat, the *Owl* operated by Aaron Lincoln, plans to do four-hour trips rather than two. Harbormaster Steve Pixley supported this application, saying that the flow on the daysailer float should work out smoothly.

Also discussed was the fact that the *Betselma* needs work and would most likely not be launched during 2014, though operator Alec Brainerd wishes to retain the license to ensure future inclusion of *Betselma* in the daysailer fleet.

Three of the captains spoke about the operations of their boats: Shawn O'Connor, Alec Brainerd and Aaron Lincoln. Parking privileges for boat operators at the Public Landing were discussed briefly by the Board.

John French made a motion to approve daysailer licenses to the six daysailers, with the Harbormaster to work out schedules:

Aaron Lincoln's license application (Olad)

Jack & Barbara Moore's license application (Surprise)

Sean O'Connor's license application (Lazy Jack II)

Garth Wells and Alec Brainerd's license application (Lively Lady)

Aaron Lincoln's license application (Owl)

Alec Brainerd's license application (Betselma)

Donald White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

D. Public Hearings regarding the following Liquor Licenses:

Martin Cates opened a public hearing to consider:

- a. Application of Pura Vida, d/b/a Comida Latin Kitchen at 31 Elm Street for a Class I Restaurant Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous Liquor License
- b. North Winds Inc., d/b/a The Waterfront Restaurant at 48 Bay View Street for a Class I Restaurant Malt, Spirituous, and Vinous Liquor License

Leonard Lookner made a motion to approve the Class I liquor licenses for Pura Vida, d/b/a Comida Latin Kitchen at 31 Elm Street and The Waterfront Restaurant at 48 Bay View Street. James Heard seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

E. Consideration of the following victualer licenses:

- a. Maine Stay Inn at 22 High Street
- b. Comida Latin Kitchen at 31 Elm Street
- c. Mike's Catering at Camden Snow Bowl at 20 Barnestown Road
- d. Seabright at 7 Public Landing

John French made a motion to approve the victualers licenses for the Maine Stay Inn at 22 High Street, Comida Latin Kitchen at 31 Elm Street, Mike's Catering at Camden Snow Bowl at 20 Barnestown Road, and Seabright Pizza at 7 Public Landing. Donald White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

F. Establish the 2014 Select Board Meeting schedule

There was discussion on the 2014 calendar. November 4 is election day, so the group decided that no Select Board meeting would be held that day unless one is needed.

Martin Cates made a motion to set the 2014 Select Board meeting schedule: the first and third Tuesday of the month, with only one meeting in November unless circumstances require a second meeting. Donald White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

7. Business Postponed from the December 3, 2013 Meeting

A. Approval of adding a Storm Policy to the Personnel Policy

Pat Finnigan summarized the discussions that had taken place previously around the Town of Camden's storm policy, saying that closing the Town Office during severe weather is a matter of safety both for employees and the public.

Board members expressed their opinions regarding the policy that had been recommended by the Personnel Committee. John French said that he felt employees should be paid only when they work, noting that the fact that other municipalities pay non-essential employees for days the office is closed does not mean that Camden has to do this. James Heard commented that "essential" employees who work in public safety and for public works were aware of the job requirements to work during storms when they accepted their positions.

Donald White made note of the fact that implementing the proposed storm policy would not require any additional taxpayer funds because the full salaries for employees had already been approved as part of the Town's budget for the year. White said that not paying non-essential employees when the office is closed due to severe weather would be equivalent to garnishing their pay when it's decided that they should not report to work.

Donald White made a motion to accept the Personnel Board's recommended Storm Policy dated November 20, 2013. James Heard seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1 (French abstained).

8. Town Manager Report

Pat Finnigan reported that Jim Guerra had been appointed to the Midcoast Solid Waste Municipal Review Board. She said that Randy Stearns, who represents Camden on the Knox County Budget Committee, had met with her to discuss the budget which was approved on December 5. Finnigan

also told the Board that the county is redistricting Budget Committee members, which would mean that there would now be one representative each from Camden and Rockport.

The Town Manager said that the Down East Singers concert that had been scheduled for December 15th had been moved to the 22nd due to weather, and that the Opera House's recently refurbished Steinway grand piano would have its debut performance at that upcoming concert.

Adjourn

Donald White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leonard Lookner seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Donald White made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a poverty tax abatement under Title 36 M.R.S.A. §841. John French seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session:

1. Consideration of Poverty Tax Abatement (Title 36 M.R.S.A. §841)
2. Town Manager's Performance Evaluation (*Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405 sub sections 6.A*)

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary