



Town of Camden  
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting  
**December 18, 2012**  
**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.

The Board observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the recent school shooting in Newtown, CT on December 14.

Chairperson Cates wished the citizens of Camden a happy holiday season, and he thanked the Town staff and the many committee volunteers for their hard work all year long. He also commended Town Manager Finnigan for all that she had accomplished during her first year and for her dedication to Camden. Other Select Board members concurred.

John French requested a change in the order of the agenda.

*John French made a motion, seconded by Donald White, that the meeting of the Board of Assessors be moved up to follow the New Business portion of the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.*

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

**1. Report of the Comprehensive Plan Committee – Lowrie Sargent**

Lowrie Sargent told the Board that work would soon begin on four chapters of the Comprehensive Plan: History (Chapter 1), Natural Resources (Chapter 5), Natural Opportunities and Constraints (Chapter 6), and Historic Resources (Chapter 14). Sargent noted that several applications to serve on these work groups had been picked up at the Town Office. He requested that the Select Board vote to establish a work group that would begin updating the chapter on Solid Waste.

*John French made a motion to authorize the establishment of a chapter working group to review the Solid Waste chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

**2. Request to accept a new sign from the Downtown Business Group**

Heidi Van Norse, owner of Loyal Biscuit on Mechanic Street, described a new informational sign proposed by the Camden Downtown Business Group to be placed near the corner of the Mechanic Street parking lot. Leonard Lookner commented that the look of the sign was unappealing and out of character for the Town of Camden.

*Donald White made a motion to accept the sign being donated by the Downtown Business group. The motion was seconded by John French. It was approved by a vote of 4-1-0 (Lookner opposed).*

### **3. Resignation of Planning Board Member: Sidney Lindsley**

Members of the Select Board and others present expressed gratitude for the many years of service that Sid Lindsley had given the Town through his work as part of several committees, including the Select Board. Martin Cates suggested that at the appropriate time the Town should formally recognize Lindsley for his contributions.

*John French made a motion to accept Sid Lindsley's resignation with regret and to thank him for his many years of service. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

### **C. Citizen Comments**

Gian-Angelo Gallace noted that the recent Christmas By the Sea celebration had been the best three days of business for his employer, a retailer on Elm Street. Gallace then commented on grants pursued by the Development office and the list of expenditures that accompany the proposed projects. Gallace shared his opinion that he didn't feel the projects are economically or aesthetically beneficial to the Town.

Seeing no further citizen comments, Chairperson Cates opened the floor to comments from the Board.

Don White reported that Clifton Richards, the long-time custodian and groundskeeper for the Camden Public Library, had recently passed away. White said that the 97-year-old Richards had worked for the Library from 1959 to 2009, constituting just over 50 years. White also announced that the two-acre P.A.W.S Dog Park had opened on Camden Street.

James Heard noted that there are several vacancies on Town committees. He encouraged to citizens who wanted to get involved to serve on a Town committee. He specifically asked Mr. Gallace if he had ever considered serving on a committee since he was interested in Town activities and often attended Select Board meetings.

### **D. Approval of Board Minutes dated November 27, 2012**

*John French made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of November 27, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

### **E. Select Board Member Reports**

Don White told the group that at the recent meeting of the Planning Board they had continued their work on the review of the Comprehensive Plan and had given assignments to several town committees including Historic Resources, Parks and Recreation, and the Megunticook Watershed Association.

White said that he had attended the Historic Resources Committee meeting where Dave Jackson had reported that the National Park Service's Advisory Committee had approved the Camden Amphitheatre application to be a National Historic Landmark. Jackson had said that the application would now go to the Secretary of the Interior for final approval.

Leonard Lookner reported that while he hadn't been able to attend the recent meeting of the Pathways Committee, he was aware that the committee was working on the sidewalk extension to Shirttail Point, noting that so far the project had been well received.

#### **F. Town Manager Report**

The Town Manager did not have any items to report.

#### **G. Old Business**

##### **1. Adoption of the Knox County Hazardous Mitigation Plan**

Pat Finnigan invited Fire Chief Farley to come forward to answer questions from the Board regarding the proposed Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

Chief Farley gave a report on the new fire truck, updating its status and saying that delivery was expected within the week.

On the topic of Hazardous Mitigation, Chief Farley explained that in the case of an emergency situation it is easier to recoup funds from FEMA when an emergency mitigation plan is in place. Members of the Board discussed the question of whether similar plans exist in neighboring counties and towns and whether or not such plans are coordinated state-wide.

*John French made a motion to adopt the Knox County Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The motion was seconded by James Heard. It was unanimously approved.*

#### **H. New Business**

##### **1. Consideration of 2013 Commercial Fishermen's Dock Permit Applications.**

Pat Finnigan said there had been no change in the list of commercial fishermen from the prior year.

*John French made a motion to approve the seven 2013 Commercial Fishermen permit applications. The motion was seconded by Donald White.*

Leonard Lookner suggested that there should be a hoist at the public landing to assist fishermen with loading bait onto vessels and unloading their catch. John French said that there used to be a hoist for this purpose but that it had become a liability issue when it had been used by some to haul engines out of boats.

*John French made a motion to refer the issue of a hoist for fishermen to the Harbor Committee. Lookner seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*

*The previous motion on the Commercial Fishermen permits was then unanimously approved.*

##### **2. Consideration of 2013 Daysailers' Permit Applications and Schedule**

Pat Finnigan said that the Harbor Committee had recommended approval of all five daysailer applications for licenses to operate from the Town dock. She noted that while three of the applicants had operated the same vessels in Camden for many years, there were two new

owners, Garth Wells and Alec Brainerd, who will be operating the *Lively Lady* and the *Betselma*.

Alec Brainerd, who also owns Artisan Boatworks, told the Board that they look forward to carrying on the traditions of these daysailers. Don White recognized Captain Alan Philbrook who operated the *Lively Lady* out of the harbor for many years.

*Donald White made a motion to approve the five 2013 daysailer applications and schedules. The motion was seconded by Leonard Lookner.*

It was decided that consideration of the daysailers' schedules would be deferred to a later date.

*White amended his motion to remove the word "schedules". The amendment was seconded by Lookner. The amended motion was unanimously approved.*

### **3. Consideration of application for a renewal of a victualer licenses:**

#### **a) Brian C. Hill, Linz, LLC, d/b/a Francine Bistro at 55 Chestnut Street.**

*John French made a motion to approve the victualer license for Francine Bistro. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was approved by a vote of 4-0-1 (Lookner abstaining).*

#### **b) Mike's Catering, d/b/a French & Brawn at the Camden Snow Bowl**

*John French made a motion to approve the victualer license for Mike's Catering, d/b/a French & Brawn at the Camden Snow Bowl. The motion was seconded by James Heard. It was unanimously approved.*

### **4. Public Hearing**

Chairperson Cates opened a public hearing to consider the following applications for liquor licenses:

**a) Tom Sigler, Pura Vida Inc., d/b/a Comida at 31 Elm Street for a Class I Restaurant Spirituous, Vinous & Malt Liquor License (new)**

**b) Samuel Appleton, North Winds, Inc., d//b/a The Waterfront Restaurant at 48 Bay View Street for a Class I Restaurant Spirituous, Vinous & Malt Liquor License (renewal)**

*John French made a motion to approve the liquor licenses for Comida at 31 Elm Street and The Waterfront Restaurant at 48 Bay View Street. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

### **Adjourn and Convene as Board of Assessors**

*Donald White made a motion to adjourn the Select Board meeting and convene as Board of Assessors. John French seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Select Board adjourned at 7:20pm.*

## **Meeting of the Board of Assessors**

### **1. Consideration of a request by Anita Brosius-Scott to reduce the assessed value of her property located at 18 Ames Terrace from \$119,800 to \$85,730 and abate the taxes.**

Anita Brosius-Scott outlined her reasons for seeking a reduced assessed value and tax abatement for her property on Ames Terrace. She explained the differences between her evaluation and the calculations of the Town's Assessors Agent.

Wes Robinson, Assessor's Agent for the Town of Camden, told the board that he felt he had come up with a fair evaluation for the home and that it was his job to ensure that the tax burden is distributed equitably.

Following some discussion Attorney Kelly commented on the matter, saying that the burden of proof falls on the taxpayer and that the proof must be indisputable.

*John French made a motion to deny the request for an abatement of \$34,070 in valuation, from \$119,800 to \$85,730, but to grant an abatement of \$28,100 in value from \$119,800 (land and building) to \$91,700, which would result in a tax reduction of \$382.40. The motion was seconded by Martin Cates. It was passed by a vote of 4-1-0, (White opposed).*

### **2. Consideration of an abatement of taxes for Margaret H. Isakson, for property located at 23 Thomas St, (Map 114-074-000-000, Account #695RE) in the amount of \$127.22, to account for eligibility for the Homestead Exemption.**

Members of the Board discussed the criteria used to determine primary residency.

*John French made a motion to approve the abatement of taxes for Margaret H. Isakson, for property located at 23 Thomas St. in the amount of \$127.22, to account for eligibility for the Homestead Exemption. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

## **The Board of Assessors adjourned and reconvened as Select Board.**

### **I. Set the 2013 Select Board Meeting Schedule**

*John French made a motion to approve the proposed 2013 Select Board Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Donald White. It was unanimously approved.*

### **J. Select Board Closing Comments**

Donald White wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

## **Executive Session: Pursuant to 1 MRSA 406(5)(E) discussion with the Town Attorney regarding settlement of a land use violation regarding C. Edward Libby**

*John French made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss with the Town Attorney settlement of a land use violation regarding C. Edward Libby. Don White seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board went into Executive Session at 7:55pm.*

*The Select Board came out of Executive Session at 9:07 p.m.*

### **Adjourn**

*Donald White made a motion to adjourn the Select Board meeting. James Heard seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Workshop**

The Select Board held a brief workshop regarding the vacancy on the MSAD #28 School Board due to the resignation of Bob Lawson. The Select Board directed Town Manager Finnigan to publicize that the Select Board is seeking people who are interested in serving on the School Board and to request that they submit a letter of interest or an application by January 2. The Board intends to make the appointment to fill the vacancy at the January 8, 2013 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Brace  
Recording Secretary