

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
DAMARISCOTTA TOWN OFFICE
August 4, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Live and via LCTV and/or YouTube

Members: Daryl Fraser, Chairperson; Louis Abbotoni, Tom Anderson; Mark Hagar, and Josh Pinkham

Members Absent : None

Staff Present: Matt Lutkus, Town Manager; Evan Goodkowsky, Intern to Town Manager; Lynda Letteney, recording secretary

Others Present: Mary Anne Moisan, Larry Sidelinger, Jim Murphy, Jean Moon, Corey Redonnett, Doug Morgan, Max Johnstone

I. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairperson Fraser led the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:30 p.m.

II. Call to Order

The Select Board's meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. **by Chairperson Fraser**

III. Minutes

Minutes for 7/21/21 meeting were postponed to August 18th meeting.

IV. Financial Reports

1. On motion (Pinkham/Hagar) to approve Payroll Warrant #4

Vote: 5-0-0

**2. On motion (Pinkham/Anderson) to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #5
(amount approved \$169,220.34)**

Vote: 5-0-0

V. Presentations: Public Safety and Accessibility Committee (PSAC)-Mary Anne Moisan

The PSAC, Chaired by Marianne Moisan, has targeted bicycle safety and accessibility as a top priority. They have had community collaboration on the project, including, but not limited to, Matt Lutkus, Town officials, Lincoln County Regional Board, County Planner, Coastal Rivers, YMCA, Kate Martin, and area schools. They conducted an area survey about bicycling habits, accessibility and safety. There were 136 respondents covering a wide range of ages. The survey provided no big surprises. The biggest concern was safety and speed of vehicles using the same road. Lack of paved shoulders and pathways. Highlights of the survey were conveyed to the Board: (Full survey available at the Town Office)

Q1 – 77% ride at least several times a month. 50% ride to work daily or several times a month. Lack of a safe place to ride with kids is a big issue.

Q2 – As to why people bike, the top two responses were exercise and recreation, both in the 80th percentile. Almost 12% used bikes for transportation to work

Q3 – The reasons for not biking in the Damariscotta are overwhelmingly focused on narrow roads with no shoulders and too many cars that drive too fast.

Q4 - When asked where people bike most often, Main St. both downtown and business Rt. 1 were the top two places. Belvedere Road was third at almost 50% of respondents.

Q5 – The four roads most likely to see an increase in bike traffic if safety conditions improve would be Biscay Rd., Bristol Rd., Main St.- downtown, and Main Street- Business Rt. 1.

Q6 – When asked what type of off-road options were preferred paved paths and gravel paths were the top two, but mountain terrain paths were advocated for by 43% of respondents.

Q7 – Narrative describing respondents' favorite trail to ride in Damariscotta.

Q8 - As far as children riding bikes to school, either the respondent had no children or there was a “no” response due to safety concerns. Only just under 6% said their child(ren) rode their bikes to GSB School. Q9 – When asked if the responded no to Q8, Why? Responses were 56% not applicable and 41% safety reasons.

Q10 – Less than 5% said they had children that biked to Lincoln Academy for the same reasons given in

Q11 – The majority did not have children at Lincoln Academy (65%), but those that did cited safety concerns as the top reason not to go by bike.

Q12 – In describing one’s biking habits, riding solo or with 1-2 others was the vast majority. Q13 – Bike lanes and paved shoulders were the top two responses to what improvement this community would like to see. When asked by Tom Anderson what “other” entailed, Ms. Moisan responded that there was high interest in mountain trails.

Q14 - This question asked for narrative responses, asking what else the respondent wanted the Committee to know about his/her biking experience in Damariscotta. 72 written responses out of a total of 132.

Q15 – 55% of respondents are year-round residents; 37% are residents/seasonal residents of a neighboring town.

Q16 – The survey asked for the respondents age; results were a good cross-section of the population with the ages of 35-44 and 55-64 and 65+ almost 69%, and the remaining (30%) under 18, 18-24, and 45-54. Statistically this is considered a good spread.

Comments from the Committee included, “there is no bike road at the end of Egypt Rd.” “Routes would be nice if identified.” Identifying bike routes as a regional approach. Have designated pathways. Create some mountain bike trails – i.e. CMP right-of-ways. More bike racks in town. **Daryl Fraser** commented that the presentation was comprehensive and impressive. He was glad to see so many people had information to share. As a group the PSAC will continue to work with the Town. **Josh Pinkham** stated some of the issue is that the state roads are out of the Town’s control. The Town requested shoulders and were denied twice by the MDOT. Specifically Bristol and Biscay Roads. The reclaim solution didn’t work out and they did a terrible job. As far as off-road biking, Coastal River’s has a huge tract of land that might be used. As far as collaborating with CMP to use their right-of-ways, it is already done in other towns. Both sides are open to this idea.

Matt Lutkus said the CMP right-of-way is only a part of it. Some of the right-of-ways go through private property. **Daryl Fraser** said Main Street is a big problem. Awareness and education have to be part of the solution. **Matt** continued saying more racks in parking lot is a good suggestion. Right now they are at the library and in Misery Gulch. **Matt** said that the grant from MDOT (GSB/McDonalds) includes a bike lane. He suggests asking for a multi-use (walk/bike) project. **Mark Hagar** thought there was a bike trail at one time and would like to get the history on that. It would be good to get it to come back into town. Egypt Road should be explored. The Bike Coalition of Maine has resources and the former commissioner is on the committee. **Matt Lutkus** said a lot of surrounding towns are ahead of us; we are just at the beginning stages. **Matt** thanked Ms. Moisan for her presentation on behalf of the Board.

VI. Citizens Comments and General Correspondence

1. Corey Redonnett, a resident near the end of Church Street and McDonald’s, wanted to address the speeding problem with the Board. People are going too fast. Three new families have moved in, in the last two years. Business Route 1 has gone from 30 mph to 40 mph. All of Church St is 25 mph with really tight turns. Early morning, it is truck traffic; late afternoon, it is increased car traffic, partly due to road work in other areas. A flashing speed sign might help.

Matt Lutkus said speed limits are set by the State. MDOT will do a survey which records what 85% of the population is doing. He has asked for a review of Church St. Also, they have a donation from a citizen for the cost of a survey and engineering to put in a sidewalk which will help a lot. Previously MDOT reduced the speed to Great Salt Bay to 30 mph and then to 40 and finally increased it to 45 mph. **Matt** will check on an analysis of Church St.

VII. Town Manager's Items

1. Waterfront Project: **Matt** has sent a draft to Wright-Pierce regarding the wall. There is agreement with the scope we laid out in the draft. There will be a special meeting to review scope questions and then finalize Phase I draft. Or, we can have Wright-Pierce complete draft and the Board approves it. Or, if the Board is comfortable with the draft, it can authorize **Matt** to sign. EDA/FEMA has said to proceed with everything but the wall, and see if bids comes in above budget. Drainage is a bigger issue than the wall. We can design the wall and see if bids are too high to be included in monies available. We can apply for additional funds for the flood wall. EDA/FEMA want at least 12'6" to 13'1", preference being 13'1" for protection from storm action as well as flooding.

How It Looks: **Matt** began by saying, "3' concrete plus 2'1" removable glass (or other see-through material) is suggested. Wright-Pierce will give us options. Transparent material however is a maintenance nightmare." Research as to what has been done elsewhere is needed. No one wants a 5' solid wall blocking the view of the river. **Tom Anderson** asked "Acceptable to whom?" **Matt** replied, "Bob, George and I and part of the scope for Phase 1. Actually part of the contract." **Mark Hagar** stated that he thought they would bring ideas for the wall and storm water. **Matt** said he would like a community meeting 9/28/21 to review the draft. **Mark** replied that it would be nice to have choices. **Matt** said he had told them they were not interested in a solid concrete option. **Mark** said he was looking ahead to 2035 and can the design accommodate what's predicted. **Matt** said he envisioned a 3' wall and if there is a king tide, public works crew can "flip" up panels from the base and/or add them on. **Mark** said 3' takes some out of the flood zone. He questioned if 12'6" was enough.

Matt said 3' is not enough to qualify some as "out of flood zone." The additional 2' could put all into insurance flood zone safety. **Doug Morgan** asked if it had to be all at once. **Matt** replied it was 2 years and then 5 years from award. Plan is to progress with project without the wall and get additional funding. **Max Johnstone** commented that the deadline for Phase One is 4/17/22, but it won't be done by then. **Matt** said they have an amendment for an additional 500 days. **Matt** recommended not asking for another extension until they knew an end date. **Max** suggested when you think you have an end date, give yourselves an additional 3 months. **Tom Anderson** said, "To summarize, we will delay the wall and the park?" **Max** said currently 75% reimbursement then 25% from Town funds. **Matt** said at that point, they will reapply, but the local match is unknown. **Max** said a new EDA grant might be a 50/50 split.

Mark Hagar asked where we stand from a taxpayers point of view. **Matt** said there is no added tax money for Phase I. **Tom** asked what the deadline was. **Matt** replied that it was 1/13/22. **Josh Pinkham** said he was good with the draft.

On motion (Pinkham/Fraser) to authorize the Town Manager to sign for SLR/W-P to move forward and allow him to include penalties if the 1/13/22 deadline is not met.

Vote: 5-0-0

Mark Hagar agreed with the penalties, saying, "We need to get it right."

2. Theater Street – Theater Street will be closed for 3 days for roof work. This will be November 1-2-3 with backup dates November 8-9-10. (Both M-W-F)

On motion (Abbotoni/Pinkham) to proceed with proposed closing for roof work.

Vote: 5-0-0

3. Public Hearing - Matt has advertised the public hearing on how to use the American Rescue Fund dollars for August 18, 2021.

4. Community Meeting - Andrew Fedderman has agreed to let the Town use the Lincoln Theater for a Community Meeting on the Waterfront Project. Meeting is set for September 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

5. Covid Masking requirements – Town employees and visitors as well as for those attending meetings in the Town Office will not be required to wear masks beginning Monday August 9, 2021. Currently Lincoln County has a substantial transmission area. The governor is recommending CDC guidelines be enforced which required mask wearing indoors. **Josh Pinkham** said these guidelines/restrictions can change daily. Lou Abbotoni said there were 123 new cases in the State. **Josh** said “but only 3 in Lincoln County. He suggested holding off on the mask requirement until they had more serious/definitive numbers from CDC. Agreement by consensus.

6. Harbor Master –Paul Bryant will be stepping down at the end of this season. **Matt** has been meeting with Newcastle and the Harbor Committee to find a replacement. **Tom Anderson** said the Harbor Master plays a critical role in the community; Paul will be a hard person to replace. **Josh Pinkham** asked if there might be any candidates from the aquaculture community. **Matt** said that no one has come forward.

VIII. Official Action Items

1. Local Match – Evan Goodkowsky

They are looking at ConnectMe monies and/or other funding. Next step is to form a committee to explore options and piggyback on Newcastle’s plan. A consultant is needed (at about \$10-15K) for broadband expansion. Approximately \$2000 would come from Maine Community Foundation, \$4900 from the Island Institute, and \$1500 each from the Towns of Newcastle and Damariscotta. This would cover the cost of a whole plan. **Chris** from the Island Institute said this could separately include S. Bristol and Nobleboro.

On motion (Abbotoni/Anderson) to allow a transfer from the contingency account of \$2000 for the local match for the grant (\$1500) and administrative fees (\$500). **Vote: 5-0-0**

2. Cemetery Deed Transfer

On motion (Pinkham/Fraser) to allow transfer of ownership of lot 114-2 from Malcom and Carol Ray to Nancy Callahan in the Bethlehem Cemetery. Malcolm and Carol Ray retain ownership of lot 113 and 114-1. **Vote: 5-0-0**

3. LCTV Compensation

Daryl Fraser began by thanking LCTV for all their work in bringing better communication access for Town meetings. He asked where the money was coming from-? contingency. **Matt Lutkus** said it was the only place. An estimate of 40 meetings for a year is \$4000. If you don’t include Planning Board the first year, it could be \$2200. **Mark Hagar** expressed the opinion of keeping 40 mtgs. They could use franchise fees. It is important to reach out to the taxpayers. **Matt** said of the \$24,000 in franchise fees, \$11,700 goes to LCTV. **Josh Pinkham**, speaking as citizen, suggested doing both Select Board and Planning Board for 6 months. **Mark Hagar** asked if there were any Covid Funds that could be used. **Matt** said he didn’t see this falling into any of the 5 specified categories.

On motion (Anderson/Hagar) to allocate 6 months of Select Board and Planning Board to be broadcast via live TV and YouTube by LCTV. **Vote: 4-0-1**

(Pinkham abstaining) Subsequent to the vote, Mark Hagar said it felt it was very important to broadcast

community meetings regarding the waterfront. **Lou Abbotoni** said he has been very impressed with the new equipment and ability to broadcast live. He's in favor of a 12 month agreement.

IX. Selectmen's Discussion Items

Tom Anderson – He is concerned about brush on Bristol Rd. and School St. Brush comes out too far and is a safety issue. Is it a private issue or Town issue? **Matt** said it is a State issue, but will have Public Works cut it. **Tom** thanked Matt as it was completed last Friday. The State was notified of the brush cutting. They also said it was okay to repaint the intersection to a T not an angle.

Lou Abbotoni – a thank you to LCTV

Mark Hagar – also a thank you to LCTV. He sees this as an improvement in communications with taxpayers.

Josh Pinkham -nothing

Daryl Fraser - nothing

X. Adjournment

On motion (Abbotoni/Hagar) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting and go immediately into the Select Board workshop

Vote: 5-0-0

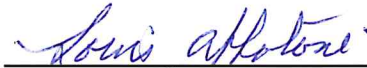
Respectfully submitted,

Lynda L. Letteney
Recording Secretary

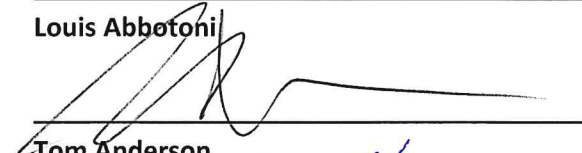
We, the undersigned, do hereby approve as written, or with corrections as noted, the minutes of the above-designated Select Board meeting on August 4, 2021.



Daryl Fraser, Chairperson



Louis Abbotoni



Tom Anderson



Mark Hagar



Joshua Pinkham

Town of Damariscotta, Select Board meeting, signed this date: 9/1/2021