

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
DAMARISCOTTA TOWN OFFICE

August 18, 2021 5:30 p.m.

Live and Via YouTube

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

Members Absent : None

Staff Present: Matt Lutkus, Town Manager; Lynda Letteney, recording secretary

Others Present: Andrea Lalime; Max Johnstone; Mike Curran; Carol Ast; Ole Amundsen; Marilee Harris; Sha Quill; Peter Hackmeister; Douglas Morton; Stephen Wicks; and Evan Houk, Lincoln County News

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

II. Public Hearing

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

1. New Entertainment/Special Amusement Permit Application - Maine Booch Brewing

The owner (Chauncy Erskine) was unable to attend this hearing, but his employee Sha Quill was present. Business is located at #85 Parking Lot Lane, Damariscotta. They are requesting a permit for outside (on the deck) acoustical guitar music with a singer. **Tom Anderson** asked Shay to explain a "low profit LLC". **Sha** said the designation was for start-up businesses and this is their first year. **Tom** asked about music on the back deck. **Sha** said it was a small space. They plan to be open Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (maybe Saturdays) as production permits. **Tom** encouraged him to look at Maine State Statutes regarding "low profit" guidelines. **Chairman Fraser** asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, he closed that segment of the public hearing.

2. State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Daryl Fraser introduced the topic saying that the Select Board would hear from Residents first, then business owners in town, and lastly from any other non-resident citizens.

Marilee Harris, pastor for the Damariscotta Baptist Church, was the first speaker. She also oversees Stepping Stone Housing. Support for low income housing is essential. There are many homeless needs out there. They would use the money to help the homeless. **Tom Anderson** asked her to explain how this population was adversely affected by COVID-19. **Ms. Harris** said that in the past year and a half, she has assisted people about 3 times a week who need help with housing. Two years ago, that was about 3 times a month. Now it is starting to get cold and this need will increase. **Tom** asked if she thought it was because people lost their jobs. She responded that these people live on the edge. One thing can "tip them under the bus." "They can't keep things up; they can't maintain." **Daryl Fraser** asked, "Primarily where is the need?" **Marilee** responded that the Ecumenical Council has been trying to help keep them in their homes.

Matt Lutkus asked how much she was requesting. He said there was \$227K available through the Town and \$6.7 million through the County allotment. Could she give them a dollar amount? **Marilee** said she felt 10% for the homeless was reasonable. They are also reaching out to the County for funds. Currently they have a boarding house with 4 bedrooms to assist in temporary housing. Perhaps the Town can offer jobs; however, within walking distance is a criteria. Chief Warlick knows where these people are currently. **Tom Anderson** asked if the situation is that they can't pay their rent or mortgage. **Marilee** said the most affected don't have a steady income and they can't see past getting housing. **Mark Hagar** asked, "How long can they stay in the boarding house?" **Marilee** said prior to COVID-19

they would find work and go back to home ownership. That is not happening now. It takes 3-4 years to get back to where they were. Currently 26 individuals and/or families rent from them. All of them have plans in place and specific steps to get there; each has an assigned counselor. "Previously, it took 2 years to get on track; now it takes 3-4 years. Currently all residents work. The real issue is finding where they can fit in." **Tom Anderson** asked if she had capacity. "What would you do with these monies?" **Marilee** said a laundry facility on site would be a real help. They have a 2 bedroom facility they have been working with New Hope for Women on; they would finish what has been started. Currently they have a 4 bedroom with separate baths that needs about \$235K to finish. They are using fund raising, private donations, etc. to get this completed. Tenants pay 30% of what they bring home for rent. **Mark Hagar** asked what the wait list was – 2 to 3 years? **Marilee** said she currently has 7 families waiting for family units.

The second speaker was **Peter Hackmeister** of 189 Biscay Road. He and his wife moved here 4 years ago and find it a nice place to be. His concern is the information booth. It is what people see and it is an embarrassment. **Daryl Fraser** informed him that they are waiting on Maine DOT before they can continue with a plan renovation. **Matt Lutkus** said it has been in the works for a long time. The Information Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce are separate entities. Rebuilding the existing building has already been approved by the Planning Board. The hang up is the State appraisal process. (It has been 10-11 months) **Matt** talked with them today about a gift rather than a sale. **Peter** said as he walked through Town today, a car with Minnesota license plates pulled in to the booth. And, pulled out again. **Matt** said he could make the planned design available to Peter.

Hearing no other comments, **Daryl Fraser** closed the public hearing

III. **Call to Order** – **Daryl Fraser** called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Select Board.

IV. **Action of Public Hearing**

1. **On motion (Pinkham/Anderson) to approve the new entertainment/special amusement permit application for Maine Booch Brewing.** **Vote: 5-0-0**
Mark Hagar asked Stan Waltz if everything was in line. **Stan** responded that it was. **Matt Lutkus** said the documentation would be ready tomorrow morning.
2. **Matt Lutkus** will look into the suggestions made, and if they fit into the guidelines for use of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, he will make a list for the Board.

V. **Minutes**

The minutes from July 21, 2021 were amended as follows: page 4, paragraph 1, line 15 is March 2021 not 2022.

On motion (Pinkham/Fraser) to approve the minutes of July 21, 2021 as amended **Vote: 5-0-0**

VI. **Financial Reports**

1. **On motion (Pinkham/Fraser) to approve Payroll Warrant #6** **Vote: 5-0-0**
2. **On motion (Pinkham/Abbotoni) to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #7** **Vote: 5-0-0**

VII. **Presentations – Broadband Update-Evan Goodkowsky**

Evan opened the presentation by explaining that he has spent most of the summer on broadband expansion. The village and Biscay Road have fiber optic internet. In showing a map of Damariscotta the green represents areas where it is coming soon or has transmission lines. The orange is LCI's projected plan. The map is incomplete for many roads. Piggybacking with Newcastle's planning grant, Casco Bay

Advisors (CBA) want to also include Bristol. Currently, less than 25 mgb download and 3 mgb upload classifies as underserved. That has increased to 50 mgb down and 10 mgb up. CBA want a future goal of 1000 mgb up and down. Green areas have access to fiber then blue cable and then discontinued. Shelly Winchenbach has a list of unserved homes. Estimated cost for 76 homes is \$463K to get everyone. State is aiming for 100 by 100 symmetrical service. When we apply for a grant, cost benefit is worth 50 pts. Of the grant. The more subscribers the less cost to individuals. Community support and community engagement are two of the big points also. There are increased points for financial commitment. The project value is subjective. The more points the greater the grant money. If the cost to subscribers is \$65-\$100/month the points increase. **Andrea Lalime**—a teacher – asked if they will provide service for outliers. **Evan** said ideally LCI/Tidewater will use ConnectMe grant money. The MeConnectivity Authority is the overarching entity for these projects. The fiber provider is Tidewater. Universal access is the goal. Me. Broadband Coalition website is available. A speed test is essential to grant money. Please go on the website and take the speed test. This is a particular boon for small rural businesses. With 1137 potential participants, 114 is the participation goal.

Geoff from LCTV said he and his family moved here specifically on School St., because it was a place they could get high speed internet. What's next? **Evan** said they will keep planning and waiting. However, he is requesting an additional \$450 from the Board added to the \$2000 already allocated. **Daryl Fraser** asked what the timeline was for 100% connectivity. **Evan** said 2-3 years. LCI has a labor/supply issues. **Daryl** said since the grants are point based doesn't that dictate the scale to apply. **Evan** said community/provider involvement is key. LCI will be using a professional grant writer. 72 pts is the minimum to be considered. **Josh Pinkham** asked when would be the best time to organize the community. **Evan** said the Nissan Farm people are very interested. Immediately is the best answer; community support for universal access counts a lot. **Matt Lutkus** said they have an advisory committee already. It looks especially good if it is a joint venture. Committee will meet 1-2 times a month for one hour. Plan is to be done by spring. **Tom Anderson** asked, "What is community support?" **Evan** replied: taking the speed test; votes of confidence; and community meetings. **Marilee** asked if Edgecomb did this. **Evan** responded they have a planning grant but no core system yet. **Marilee** asked if there were other towns who have completed the project. **Evan** said Hope/Appleton and Lincolnville have.

Evan asked if there were any other questions. **Doug Morton** asked how Spectrum and Tidewater relate to each other. **Evan** said they give residents a choice. No one is forced to take Tidewater. There is a need for faster internet. It is not really coercion as it may force bidding for service. **Lou Abbotoni** thanked Evan for an excellent job and thorough explanation.

On motion (Abbotoni/Anderson) to allocate \$450 more for the grant process. Vote: 5-0-0

VIII. Citizens Comments and General Correspondence

First speaker was **Doug Morton** who has an issue with road width on RTS. 129/130. He felt shoulders needed to be rebuilt. **Matt Lutkus** said money had been allocated elsewhere from State DOT. These are State roads. In order to do this, they needed a right-of-way from each individual land owner and they didn't want to deal with the public relations nightmare. **Doug** asked if pressure could be brought to bear. **Josh Pinkham** said another issue was that more width meant more speed. **Doug** asked what the current status was. **Josh** replied that the best they could do was to ask MDOT again. **Doug** asked if COVID-19 money could be used for sidewalks and road width. **Matt** said these were not eligible categories, but he will look into it.

Mike Curran of 79 Church Street was concerned that the paved walkway in front of his house is not maintained. He was talking about the section in front of his house which has deteriorated and winter

makes it worse. The Road Commissioner said it should be reported. He said he was willing to pay for the repair. The Town owns the area and he is afraid of a liability issue should someone fall. Looking ahead- there should be dirt and stone and then a paved strip. He said that if we get through the winter, he will readdress it in the spring. It is an 80-100' long strip; estimated 3X4 tons of material. If it ties into a Town project, could this be done too? **Mark Hagar** said it would have to be done to Town standards. **Mike Curran** said across the street from him there is a new sidewalk. He advocates replacing what was there. **Matt Lutkus** said there are these issues throughout the Town. There are 2-3 feet pathways that do not meet Town specs. He doesn't recommend these paths being Town responsibility. **Tom Anderson** asked about other neighbors with this issue. **Mike** said 75 Church St. is flat and even. **Tom** asked, "So it doesn't affect others?" **Mike** said it was just his property. He is willing to pay for the project but has been unsuccessful in finding a paver who will do such a small job. He is asking the Town's assistance in finding a paver, maybe some doing a bigger project for the Town could add this on.

Stephen Wicks, 247 Bristol Rd., said he is afraid to leave his property because of the uneven, eroding conditions on RTS. 129/130. This is reinforced by the limited bike and pedestrian traffic. **Tom Anderson** asked how many miles he was from the Bristol Town Line. **Mr. Wicks** said he appreciate the Board understanding the struggle; he has to walk on that road daily. **Matt** said there is an advocacy group (Public Safety and Accessibility Committee - PSAC) which is working on this. A number of people are saying the same thing. 2008-2015 there was a sidewalk plan; he will give the information to Mr. Curran. **Andrea Lalime** asked if it fit into any of the COVID-19 monies. **Matt** said it did not fit any of the categories.

Hearing no other comments, the public comment of meeting was closed by **Chairperson Fraser**.

IX. Town Manager's Items

1. Select Board's Meeting Remote Attendance Policy -The policy allows Select Board members to attend remotely. State law authorizes towns to do this. We can adopt the model policy set forth by MMA; or, we can fine tune our own to comply. Changes needed include:

- 1.) If remote, for Board members, must be remote for citizens;
- 2.) Has to have the capability to be available all the time (already have this);
- 3.) Our policy needs to change so that remote attendance does not count toward a quorum;
- 4.) Remote attendance does count as officially there; and
- 5.) Roll call vote must be taken with every vote;
- 6.) For Town meetings you have to be present to vote

Tom Anderson suggested going by ours and revising what needs to be revised. **Consensus opinion 5-0-0**

X. Official Action Items

1. 2021-2022 Work Plan - The work plan draft for 2021-22 was reviewed by the Board at the workshop. Revised plan was distributed prior to this meeting. No additional comments.

On motion (Fraser/Anderson) to accept the work plan as presented for 2021-22 **Vote: 5-0-0**

2. Cemetery Transfer Deed -

On motion (Abbotoni/Hagar to approve the transfer from Paul Sidelinger to Larry Sidelinger of lot # 117-2 in the Bethlehem Cemetery.

Vote: 5-0-0

3. Foreclosures – We had 7 foreclosures. Six (6) bought back the property; one was a quick claim deed from a previous year. Board members need to sign the foreclosure documents.

On motion (Pinkham/Abbotoni) to sign the foreclosure documents.

Vote: 4-0-1

(Fraser abstaining)

XI. Selectmen's Discussion Items

Tom Anderson – Still concerned about the strip by Miles Road

Lou Abbotoni – had a question on school district items

Josh Pinkham – said the neutral terms for Select Board members is something we need to address in the Charter

Mark Hagar – all good

Daryl Fraser – need to adjourn meeting to have a workshop on Charter amendments.

XII. Adjournment

On motion (Pinkham/Abbotoni) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 7:00 p.m. and immediately reconvene for a workshop on the Town Ordinances

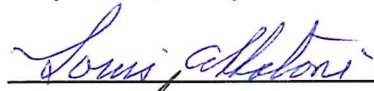
Vote: 5-0-0


Respectfully submitted,

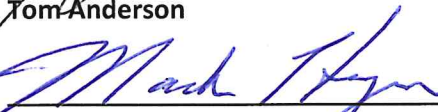
Lynda L. Letteney
Recording Secretary


We, the undersigned, do hereby approve as written, or with corrections as noted, the minutes of the above-designated Select Board meeting on August 18, 2021.


Daryl Fraser, Chairperson


Louis Abbotoni


Tom Anderson


Mark Hagar


Joshua Pinkham

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