

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
DAMARISCOTTA TOWN OFFICE
November 3, 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; John Roberts, Fire Chief; Lynda Letteney, recording secretary

Others Present: Sarah Risley, UMO, Darling Marine Center; Geoff Keochakian, LCTV; and Nate Pool, Lincoln County News

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

On motion (Pinkham/Anderson) to approve the minutes of 10/6/21

Vote: 5-0-0

On motion (Pinkham/Anderson) to approve the minutes of 10/20/21

Vote: 5-0-0

IV. Financial Reports

1. On motion (Pinkham/Abbotoni) to approve Payroll Warrant #21

Vote: 5-0-0

2. On motion (Pinkham/Abbotoni) to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #22

Vote: 5-0-0

V. Presentations:

1. Shellfish Resiliency Project – Sarah Risley, Darling Center

Sarah Risley recapped previous Board reports on this project. Newcastle, Bremen and Damariscotta were the participants. This is the final report. BroadReach Foundation sponsored the study. Beginning in 2019 a survey of specific shellfish in the Damariscotta River was conducted. In 2020 due to the pandemic, the study became home-based to produce a document that reflected the study so far. The focus was on change in human use, areas of importance, and local knowledge maps. The focus being shellfish, fishermen, and recreation. Phone interviews were conducted with 28 people. These were divided into two groups. 10 or 11 of which were professional shellfish harvesters. Average age was 35. They processed map data which covered a lot of information. Shellfish resources were divided in half (lower river to middle of Glidden Ledges) shellfish and (upper river from Glidden Ledge to headwaters), aquaculture. Soft shell clams and oysters and razor clam across the whole river. They were targeting specific zones for: abundance, richness, diversity, and other concerns. These include aquaculture activity throughout the river, decreased public water access and invasive creatures.

Changes and Trends in both commercial and recreational uses have an impact on the river. Aquaculture has had a big impact; coastal boating is another. There has been a decrease in river access reducing clamming and fishing. There has been a greater opportunity to use the river for recreational activities (paddle boarding and kayaking particularly). This project reflects a lot of investment of time, but results are positive. There were identification challenges. A positive outcome was how this inspired community involvement in a scientific monitoring program at Lincoln Academy. Clam and oyster surveys were done

by this group. As relayed in the report, the program reflected the long history of recording river changes. A story map reflects the long history of research on the Damariscotta River.

Daryl Fraser pointed out that there has been a lot of student involvement over the years. **Tom Anderson** asked when the last study on the health of the river was done. **Sarah** said water quality is monitored continually; but he would have to contact BroadReach or the Darling Center for that information. **Sarah** said in reviewing threats to the shellfish population that green crabs have been determined to be the number one threat to shellfish on the Damariscotta River. **Tom** asked if anyone had anyone considered harvesting them to reduce their impact as he had cooked some and found them small but very tasty. **Sarah** responded that she was not aware that harvesting had been attempted. **Mark Hagar** asked about the main cause of the decrease in clam population. Response was water temperature, lack of larvae supply, and creation of outside pressure on the river use. **Matt Lutkus** added that the shellfish community feels there is a conservation component. They are discouraged by lack of replenishing the resources. **Matt** and **Daryl** thanked Sarah for the presentation.

2. Review of Waterfront Improvement Project (60% Design Drawings): Wright-Pierce and SLR Consultants.

Jan Wiegman (W-P) and **Mike Zarba** presented the 60% design plans. (Refer to copy attached), via Zoom. (Computer issues with Zoom). Highlighted sections: Section 2-Utility implementation may need to wait until they are doing the wall. Section 3- living shoreline needs to be done before wall construction. Section 4 pertains to entire project and Section 5 Flood Barrier could be removed from this budget (\$1.8 M) and be proposed for second round of grants giving the Town time to raise the matching money needed. This is basically a refinement of the 30% proposal. The Board needs to take action on 60% design plan soon so it can go out to bid by January. **Jan Wiegman** began the discussion by asking the Board to look at the site plan for the parking lot. There are multiple access points. Storm drains align with public works storm drain collection. CMP has some refinements. Visibility panels; stop log openings; use of underground collection; clean water as it runs off. There is an increase in weight of sheet pile and an increase in longevity as presented. A cross-section of the wall shows 2' below grade and overlays with upper wall strength.

Parking Areas: Sloped vegetation and big rocks enhance the harbor as well as general aesthetics. Individual seating, picnic tables, kiosk and bike racks are planned. Pavers and/or crushed stones for walkways. Handicap accessible through Taco Alley, but accessibility needs more work. Access to Water Street is paved. East Water St. has cross walk with storm water improvement. Kayak storage takes up one parking space. **Tom Anderson** said support for the 5' wall has declined; support for a glass wall has also declined. 20' openings are favored. Also, raising the grade of the parking lot. Also, what about columns that support "slide ins". **Jan** described a 10' stop log which is placed when building. The cover plate twists to lock in place. Boat ramp and pedestrian openings; columns at each end of the wall. **Tom** asked about openings on Water St. The wall seems to come up at this end. Misery Gulch? **Matt** said there was no desire from the public for an opening, but there is no structural reason to not have one. **Tom** asked if there was time to put the stop logs in place. **Jan** said they have a video which shows closing in ten minutes. There is a rugged glass component. As far as "put together", it's drainage times flood resiliency. They have talked with EDA about completing this in two phases. EDA recommended going out for bid with the wall; make improvements; submit an alternate bid for the flood wall and apply for additional funding. EDA is amenable to that alteration in the parking lot. Local match will be needed for other items. **Matt Lutkus** said the only time flood waters broke through the park was in 1978. However, with climate change, one could expect this to happen more often. **Daryl Fraser** questioned the long term costs. The downside to a second grant is 2 sets of mobilization, reconstruction of some things already done. **Mark Hagar** was concerned about the 3" paving in the parking lot. "Better bones

than what?" Commercial guidelines are thicker. **Daryl** said he didn't want to skimp for the long term. **Josh Pinkham** asked about snow plowing. **Daryl** chimed in that it is narrower as you approach Water St. With added sidewalks, it is very narrow. **Matt** has talked to the land owner and she is agreeable to granting a right-of-way as long as the driveway is not too tight. Post Office parking lot to north is not used by owner. **Matt** suggested action in 2-3 weeks so there is time to process.

3. Request for Board resolution on Proposed Amendment to the State Constitution RE: Right to Clean Food, Clean Water and Healthy Environment – Audrey Hufnagel Audrey was unable to attend this meeting. Rescheduled for next meeting, November 15, 2021. **Tabled**

4. Selectmen's Report on Waterfront Project Historic Elements Focus Group Meeting

Meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 1, 2021. **Lou Abbotoni** and **Tom Anderson** are on the committee. **George Parker** spoke for the group stating that there were a number of good ideas. Such as separate panels depicting historic events (what's the cost?); using the wall for plaques related to the history of the community/area; replica of masts built in the river (need costs –Haas thinks \$60K each; plus shipping per pole). The Committee felt the scale was way out of whack. Another suggestion was full page section of the ship with computer model to view; specialty design along the walk ways-not limited just to the ship. **George** said it was a good meeting; and they will be talking more as the project moves along. **Tom Anderson** felt it should be kept simple depicting indigenous peoples, fishing and boat building. He could see walking historical tours; a lot of good ideas, but felt the masts were too expensive. **Mark Hagar** cautioned about the availability of product you are speculating on; we don't know yet. It is ubiquitous in the construction industry now; it is something that will play out. If wall is done at same time, EDA grant may require "Made in USA". He recommends deciding ASAP and order now.

5. Selectmen's Report on CLC Ambulance Budget Meeting

Selectmen Anderson and Pinkham attended the Ambulance Service's budget meeting on October 21, 2021. **Tom Anderson** said that the CLC Ambulance budget for Damariscotta has been reduced to \$160K since the initial proposal. Final budget is December 6, 2021. Said the CLC President spoke as to why the money was needed: salaries, benefits, etc.). The dramatic increase is due to the fact that they are way behind in these areas. Retention is a State-wide issue. He made a strong case for the issues. It is alarming, but it is a necessity. Community support is high; however, there is not a consensus on allocation. For example, So. Bristol has a large endowment, but a disproportionate amount of calls. He says they need follow-up for a new formula (50%-25%-25%) Recommendation: Go with it this year and work it out. Alna, Jefferson and Edgcomb use a different formula and contract. Consider changing to Edgcomb's 1 year contract/can be cancelled. **Tom** felt it was an excellent review. **Josh Pinkham** said he favored continuing with same contract this year and continue to rework the formula.

6. Selectmen's Report Lincoln County Budget Process

Lou Abbotoni is the Town's representative and a representative for County District 1 on the County Budget Committee. **Lou** reported that the county budget was low. The county has had an excellent ratio of lending to investing. Budget is not yet finalized. Final figures for insurance, etc. have not yet come in, 10% overall increase over last year. Payroll, benefits and contracted services account for most of that. Same issue as the ambulance service – retention of staff. Putting money into reserves is flat which goes into ASK, probate, and placeholder positions (non-union). Very little controversy was voiced except for electric stations for cars. **Mark Hagar** asked where the stations were. **Lou** said he had no idea. **Lou** thought the expense was high compared to downtown. Lastly, meeting attendance was brought up. Meeting attendance might be better if scheduled at night rather than during the day when attendance is decreased.

7. Governor's Deed and Lease Agreement

John Roberts, speaking for the Information Booth Committee (Chamber of Commerce), said they have the Governor's deed and lease agreement draft. The Chamber has already cut down trees; capital campaign has raised 25% of the funding needed already. Ready for construction in early spring/summer, with the contingency of the Governor signing the Governor's Deed. **Matt Lutkus** interjected that it was a limited use lease agreement. **Matt** would like authorization to sign the agreement with the Town and the Chamber. This means saving an historic building and cleaning up the general area. So far flooring and roofing have been donated. **Jim Gallagher** questioned last paragraph, 1st page of the lease agreement as being confusing. **Matt** said the Board did approve the lease agreement and the licensing agreement if the Governor signed the deed.

On motion (Anderson/Fraser) to accept the Governor's Deed and the lease agreement re: the Information Booth and surrounding area. **Vote: 5-0-0**

VI. Citizens Comments and General Correspondence: None

Item V-3 scheduled, presenter unable to attend. Rescheduled for next meeting.

VII. Town Manager's Items

1. Oct 28th Meeting with MDOT Staff

Matt, Tom and **Mark** attending. Discussion included design for safety at Belvedere and by-pass. Allocated in third year of budget. Suggested a round-about which was met with mixed reactions. MDOT will get back in two weeks and present recommendations to all. **Mark Hagar** said it is a dead end at Belvedere, why not do a round-about at Hunt's. **Tom Anderson** added there was a lot of supporting data regarding School St, and Business Rt. 1; School St. and Bristol Rd. (Signage blocking view). A long term plan for that intersection is needed. **Mark Hagar** asked "What do we do in the meantime?" "Cut down bollards?" **Matt Lutkus** said it was a long meeting. Suggesting reducing the speed limit doesn't work; people go the speed they want to. He is anxious to hear MDOT's recommendations.

VIII. Official Action Items

2. Confirmation of Town Manager's appointment of Assessor's Agent

On motion to confirm the Town Manager's appointment of Rob DeGlacier, from RDJ Appraisal, as the Town's Assessor's Agent **Vote: 5-0-0**

3. Confirmation of Town Manager's Appointment as Interim Code Enforcement

Initially there were no responses to the advertisement for this position. **Matt** will be interviewing two gentlemen next Wednesday. In the meantime **Matt** will nominate Joe Rose as the interim.

On motion (Pinkham/Fraser) to accept the Town Manager's recommendation to have Joe Rose as temporary Code Enforcement Officer until a suitable permanent candidate is found. **Vote: 5-0-0**

4. Comprehensive Plan Committee

On motion (Hagar/Abbotoni) to accept the Town Manager's recommendations for the following to also serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee: Ann Jackson, Mary Anne Mosian, and Dan Hunter.
(Ann Pinkham declined the invitation) **Vote: 5-0-0**

5. Contracts for Fuel Oil and Propane - Tabled

IX. Selectmen's Discussion Items

Tom Anderson wanted to thank the Maine DOT for addressing School St. and Business Rte.1 as well as Belvedere and Bristol Rd.

Lou Abbotoni had nothing at this time

Mark Hagar is concerned about the deed work for back parking lot. **Matt** responded saying all areas are public and it was done years ago. Susan Murphy's is almost complete. Amanda Meader, Town attorney, said we can move forward. There is an easement for Taco Alley; Grace Golding is the last one. Amanda has a one page agreement with the Sewer District.

Josh Pinkham said "all is good"

Geoff Keochakian asked to speak at this juncture. Under the bypass something is undermining the road. He thinks it might be beaver activity. **Matt Lutkus** responded that the MDOT has a video and have already been there. The State just removed the dams. Long term solution needs to be addressed; it is an 8' culvert with dams being under the road in three different areas. **Matt** said it is on the MDOT's radar.

Daryl Fraser wanted to thank Matt for traipsing through the mud and water to scope out the beaver issue.

X. Adjournment

On motion (Pinkham/Abbotoni) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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 signed on November 3, 2021.



Daryl Fraser, Chairperson

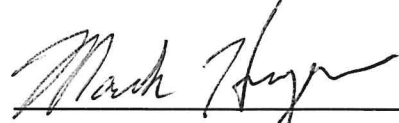


Louis Abbotoni

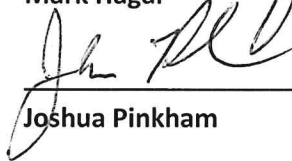


Tom Anderson

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen November 3, 2021 (cont'd)



Mark Hagar



Joshua Pinkham

Town of Damariscotta, Select Board meeting, signed this date 11-17-2021