

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
DAMARISCOTTA TOWN HALL
March 2, 2022 5:30 p.m.
Live and Via Zoom

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

Members Absent: Mark Hagar

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

Others Present; Mary Ellen Barnes; Anton Lahnston; Molly Davis; Jessica Sirois; Michael Lee; Lorraine Faherty; Patti Whitten; Derek Webber; Andrew Hedrich, Gartley & Dorsky; 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. Public Hearing – Hodgdon Street CDBG Project

Andrew Hedrich from Gartley & Dorsky is a civil engineer and presented the project to the public and the Board. Hodgdon Road is very narrow (9'-12') and you need at least 12' for two lanes. Drainage on the road is a major problem. Culverts are present, but are clogged and have failed. Winter freezes the overflow and as much as 6" of ice can form on the road for a couple hundred feet. The project starts on Pleasant Street and goes up about 500 feet to just before the cemetery. Project plans to widen the street to 18' with a closed/underground culvert and catch basin system. Houses and driveways will benefit from the closed system. The Town held a meeting last summer with all landowners on the street. They discussed having the road one-way for its whole length, but this would negatively impact some landowners and change a well-known 2-way road. Plan is to have the 18' taper to 12' (visually narrowing) with a striped line on each side creating a 3-foot shoulder. Most of the new drainage would be on the south side until close to Pleasant St. Curbing on the south side would feed into catch basins. Some driveways and the edge of one building are within the right of way. A stone wall is 10' into right of way and to preserve the wall, the design will eliminate only 1'-2' of it.

Comments from the floor – none.

Comments from the Zoom Audience:

Jessica Sirois - would like to revisit the widening as she loses a parking spot which affects her business. She personally prefers the narrower road as she is afraid a wider road will create more traffic and faster driving. Will this create more drainage issues? She would like to see it visually staked out. **Andrew** responded that one parking space was still in the plan. Grading is pitched so water will not go on her property. Widening to 18' for the whole road could be a phase II project. The new road will pull everything up to 36' elevation and then pitch back. This will match the center line elevation up to Blue Haven Lane, then it will flatten out. This will create a better grade and transition.

Jessica Sirois asked if funding is approved for the first phase, what are the next steps? **Matt Lutkus** replied that the letter of intent was the first step. The Office of Community Development then verifies that the project meets the established criteria. Next, a full application is completed and submitted. This competes with applications from all over the State. The meeting tonight is part of the application process. The full application is due March 27th. The Town should hear in April if they received a grant. The grant is available after July 1, 2022. This would mean the project could start in the fall of 2022. The grant is for drainage at about \$86,800. When you add the Town's matching percentage at 25%, the total

comes to \$122,000. **Mary Ellen Barnes**, Lincoln County CDBG Technical Assistance provider, said due to back logs, this is the first year the Town has been able to compete.

Jessica Sirois asked what happens if there is no grant money? Where does the Town prioritize this project? **Matt Lutkus** said the FY23 budget has \$98,000 and \$25K set aside giving them what they need for rain drainage. However they are quite optimistic about the grant as they really have their act together on this.

Michael Lee, who is an abutter, asked where the 18' came from. **Andrew** responded that a new road minimum width is 20'-22'; however, when it is an existing condition, there can be a compromise on the width. **Mr. Lee** asked how long the road surface will last. **Andrew** asked if he meant the new surface or the existing one. **Mr. Lee** is referring to the 18' widened road. **Andrew** said it depended on traffic and the quality of the rebuild. You should get 10 years before any maintenance is needed. It is a low volume road which could extend this to 15-20 years. Plowing will be simpler which will ease wear and tear. The width is not really a very significant cost factor for the first 10-15 years. There is more repair at 18' than 15', but probably not more than 10% more. **Mr. Lee** questioned the value of getting 10 years for \$100K. **Andrew** emphasized that 10 years was not a collapse of the road. Since drainage is the primary goal, the road itself, if maintained, should last 50-100 years. With the proposed infrastructure in place, 50+ years is a reasonable estimate

Derek Webber spoke next stating that he was not a resident but lives nearby. He walks daily on this road and this project has his wholehearted support. It is in terrible condition and something needs to be done. It is a real safety issue for children and handicapped people. He would call it treacherous. As an aside, he mentioned that it is part of the "measured mile" that the Town has put up signs so people know the distance for a loop around town. Residents and visitors alike use it, and while it is a good improvement overall, this section doesn't present well.

Chairperson Fraser asked if there were any more questions or comments. Hearing none, he closed the Public Session at 6:01 p.m.

On motion (Pinkham/Abbotoni) to approve the application for the CDBG Grant for Hodgdon Street.
Vote: 4-0-0

III. Call to Order

The Select Board's meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by **Chairperson Fraser**

IV. Minutes

On motion (Pinkham/Anderson) to approve the minutes of 2/16/22 as presented **Vote: 4-0-0**

V. Financial Reports

1. On motion (Pinkham/Abbotoni) to approve Payroll Warrant #47 **Vote: 4-0-0**

2. On motion (Fraser/Anderson) to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #48 **Vote: 3-1-0**
Pinkham in the negative

3. On motion (Fraser/Pinkham) to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #49 **Vote: 4-0-0**

VI. Presentations: Patti Whitten-Research on Additional Town-Owned Cemeteries

Patti Whitten stated that her research found 4-quarter acre sites in Nobleboro that were public burial sites. There was no evidence of any change prior to 1848. At that point in time, Damariscotta separated

from Nobleboro and all land south became part of Damariscotta, including 2 of the burial sites. These are now Damariscotta public cemetery sites. They are located off Belvedere/Ridge Roads about a quarter mile down (near Egypt/Back Meadow). Damariscotta should maintain a trail to them. There are 2 veterans from the Revolutionary War (British), one from the French & Indian War, and three from the War of 1812. State law requires maintenance. The Historical Society has done it in the past, but it is too big for them to continue. A mowing two times a year would keep it from going wild. While there is no specific funding in FY23 for this maintenance, the Cemetery Committee would like to request future budgets to include this maintenance. **Patti** said she never found the original deeds, but the burial sites are in the "do not sell" category because of the veterans' status. **Lorraine Faherty** said it does not have to be pristine to meet the State requirements. Two cuts a year would probably be sufficient. **Martha Dodge** agreed with Lorraine. **Lou Abbotoni** said he was very impressed with the research Patti had done. **Daryl Fraser** was also impressed with the history Patti provided as well as appreciating the stewardship she and the committee provide. **Patti** said she would like the Town to recognize ownership of these 2 plots. **Matt Lutkus** said he would ask the Town Attorney what that means – does it take a Town meeting action going back to 1790? **Patti** also said they are very careful with Town money, but some will be needed to maintain the area. **Matt** said he would research it.

VII. Citizens Comments and General Correspondence

Mary Ellen Barnes spoke to the grant proposal saying that over the years Damariscotta has had a lot of projects thanks to Matt's efforts. He deserves a lot of credit. She ended by saying that it had been a pleasure working with Matt and the Board.

VIII. Town Manager's Items

1. Harbor Master – Matt told the Board that a new Harbor Master had been chosen. Eric Peters has been the deputy Harbor Master for years and will replace Paul Bryant. Consensus was that Newcastle and Damariscotta were very fortunate to have Mr. Peters on board.

IX. Official Action Items

1. On motion (Fraser/Anderson) to approve the appointment of Eric Peters as Harbor Master.

Vote: 4-0-0

2. Grant for Shellfish Resources Study

This is the third year of the grant award for \$10,477

On motion (Abbotoni/Anderson) to accept the grant award for shellfish resource study **Vote: 4-0-0**

3. Quitclaim for Previously Foreclosed Property

The Town of Damariscotta released to Dean Jacobs certain property as the Town has received full payment of debt secured by a tax lien certificate dated June 20, 2018.

On motion (Fraser/Anderson) to accept the Quitclaim Deed and release said property to Dean Jacobs

Vote: 4-0-0

X. Selectmen's Discussion Items

Tom Anderson still working on Town flag

Lou Abbotoni - nothing

Josh Pinkham commended the Fire Department for its quick response to a fire at Walgreen's

Daryl Fraser - nothing

XI. Adjournment

On motion (Abbotoni/Anderson) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Vote: 4-0-0

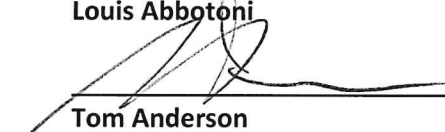
Respectfully submitted,


Lynda L. Letteney
Recording Secretary

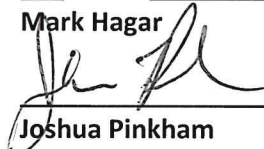
We, the undersigned, do hereby approve as written, or with corrections as noted, the minutes of the above-designated Select Board meeting on March 2, 2022


Daryl Fraser, Chairperson


Louis Abbotoni


Tom Anderson

Absent
Mark Hagar


Joshua Pinkham

Town of Damariscotta, Select Board meeting minutes, signed this date: 3-16-2022