

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMENT MEETING
September 18, 2019 5:30 pm
at the Damariscotta Town Hall

Members: Roberta Mayer, Chairperson; Louis Abbotoni, Mark Hagar, Amy Leshure and Josh Pinkham

Members Absent : None

Staff Present: Matt Lutkus, Town Manager; Karen O'Bryan, video recorder; Lynda Letteney, recording secretary

Others Present: Haas Tobey, Dr. Kara Pellowe, Dr. Heather Leslie, Charlie Uffer, Carol Heaberlin, Melanie Pendleton, Mr. Marsh, Bremen Selectman, and Evan Houk, Lincoln County News

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by **Chairperson Mayer**

III. Minutes:

On recommendation from the Chair, the minutes from 9/4 /2019 were tabled until next meeting. The minutes from 8/21/19 were approve 9/4/19, but needed to be resigned.

IV. Financial Reports

1. On motion (Mayer/Abbotoni)) to approve Payroll Warrant #15 & 16 Vote: 5-0-0

2. On motion (Abbotoni/Leshure) to approve Accounts payable Warrant #17 Vote: 4-0-1

(Hagar abstaining)

3. On motion (Abbotoni/Hagar) to approve Accounts Payable #18 Vote: 5-0-0

V. Presentations: Results of Shellfish Resilience Study- Dr. Kara Pellowe

Dr. Pellowe stated that the purpose of the study was to establish a baseline on the current status of the shellfish population in the Damariscotta River. The study used ecological surveys as well as historical information from currently licensed harvesters. The study was to assess the current state of the soft-shelled clam population (quahogs, oysters, and soft shell clams). There were 30 sites surveyed from June through July, The populations varied across the entire area, with the 5 primary sites being Chadborn, Jacks Point, Perkins Point, Westview Acres and Hog Island. Only 3 razor clams were found in the whole area. Over 300 sq. ft. of the surveyed area was sifted and screened. Wild oysters were not measured by the methods they used, but they may show up in the next study.

Lou Abbotoni asked about density of green crabs. **Dr. Pellowe** said they were not looking for them specifically, but harvesters' personal recollection cited an increase in the green crab population. She also stated the study was done at low tide when green crabs tend to go into hiding. **Amy Leshure** asked if it was abnormal to have so few razor clams. **Dr. Pellowe** stated the harvesters would have more reliable information on this. **Amy** asked if there was difficulty in getting to Hog Island to do the study. **Dr. Pellowe** stated that the sites accessible by land showed a decrease in population density while the

areas only accessible by boat showed increased density of population. **Amy Leshure** asked if the wild oysters were possibly escapees from the cultivation sites. **Dr. Pellowe** said that was quite possibly the case.

Dr. Pellowe said all licensed harvesters were contacted to see if they would participate in the study- 8 replied in the affirmative. They have seen a decrease in soft shell clams, but an increase in the oyster population. There are questions as to a link and why this is happening. The answers are unknown at this time. Simultaneously there has been an increase in oyster cultivation, with an increase in population along the banks of the river. This could be oyster spat or baby escapees. **Robin Mayer** asked if there were plans for future studies since this was a baseline study. **Dr. Pellowe** said the Damariscotta/Newcastle Joint Shellfish Resource Committee felt this was valuable information and indicated an interest in expanding and improving the survey in future years. Wild oysters are a highly lucrative commodity. There are plans to replicate the study next summer. University of Maine has an interest in this as well.

At this point, **Chairperson Mayer** took time from the discussion to acknowledge **Mr. Marsh**, a selectman from Bremen, who had just arrived.

Lou Abbotoni asked if there was specific grant funding for next year. **Dr. Pellowe** said they were actively seeking funding. The study is not over and ongoing ecological data will continue to be collected at Chadborn in 9 mesh- sided boxes to catch shellfish spat. They are interested in the density of babies inside the boxes versus the density outside the boxes. **Haas Tobey** was interested in the overall health/risk at this time. **Dr. Pellowe** stated it was hard to determine health from a baseline study. He asked from her observation about the health of the river. **Dr. Pellowe** responded that is why they took historical data from harvesters. Best indications are that "something" is happening with soft-shelled clams.

Haas Tobey was interested to know if this was the result of anything other than ardent harvesting. **Dr. Pellowe** cited green crabs need to be looked at, but at present they are not extraordinarily high, showing less than 0.5 per sq. ft. Again, this is difficult to assess as they are not on the flats at low tide when the clam surveys are done. **Chairperson Mayer** asked where they could get more information and if the full report would be published. **Dr. Pellowe** said the full report will be published in December.

Dr. Heather Leslie, Executive Director of the Darling Center, wanted to thank the Joint Shellfish Committee and the role the towns played in getting this survey done. She especially wanted to thank Matt Lutkus and his office staff for securing funds from the BroadReach Fund for seed funding as well as the veracity of all the people involved in making this happen. **Chairperson Mayer** thanks Dr. Pellowe and Dr. Leslie for their presentation.

VI. Citizen Comments and General Correspondence: None

VII. Town Manager's Items

1. Heart and Soul Charettes Anniversary

The anniversary of the 5 year comprehensive plan coupled with accomplishments in the last ten years

will be celebrated in mid-November. Robin Mayer, Ronn Orenstein and Hass Tobey are heading this up. The plan is to identify all the accomplishments in the last 5/10 years. Additionally, they will identify things that did not get done, and discuss new plans/projects for the upcoming long-term planning (i.e. pedestrian walkways/bike paths/safety etc.)

2. Treasurer's Disbursement Policy

Board members needed to sign the new policy if they are comfortable with the changes.

3. Authorizing of Toll Booth Fund Raiser

Board discussed this at an early Board meeting allowing the America Legion to do a fund raiser the first Saturday in August, but a formal vote was not taken.

On motion (Abbotoni/Mayer) to allow the American Legion Fund Raiser the first Saturday in August 2020.

Vote: 5-0-0

4. The LED Conversion of Street Lights

Matt Lutkus stated this proposal is environmentally good and will save taxpayer money as well.. We can piggy back with other Lincoln County towns. He is beginning work on this and will continue unless Lincoln County wants to take the lead. **Robin Mayer** asked if it could be adjusted. **Mark Hagar** wanted to make sure we budgeted for maintenance in the 2021 budget if we go ahead with the replacements. **Matt** said replacement would be ongoing by towns and was usually individual town contracts.

VIII. Official Action Items

1. Warrant for Special Town Meeting (Secret Ballot Election) on November 5th

Matt explain the warrant citing 6 articles – election of a moderator, 4 on medical and adult-use of marijuana, and a sixth article amending the adult and medical use to include edibles.

On motion (Leshure/Abbotoni) to approve the warrant

Discussion: **Amy Leshure** asked if this was the same as a regular election. **Matt** replied it requires a secret ballot therefore a special town meeting. We need the ballot for State ballot. There is a narrative explanation on the website. **Amy Leshure** wanted to be sure edibles were allowed with a medical license. **Robin Mayer** raised the issue of vaping and some products containing THC- are they edibles? **Amy Leshure** responded saying that edibles mean the products are eaten and go to the stomach- THC that is inhaled goes to the lungs.

On Motion (Abbotoni/Pinkham) to approve the warrants

Vote: 5-0-0

2. Corrective Cemetery Deed and Perpetual Care for Lawrence E. Townley

On motion (Mayer/Hagar) to approve the corrective cemetery deed and perpetual care for Lawrence E. Townley

Vote: 5-0-0

3. Time, Date, Location for Annual Town Meeting

Matt Lutkus proposed June 10, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at the Great Salt Bay school gym for an open Town Meeting. This is the day following elections on June 9th.

On motion (Abbotoni/Leshure) to approve the Annual Town Meeting on June 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Great Salt Bay school gym

Vote: 5-0-0

4. Request for Proposals for Cemetery Landscape Maintenance

On motion (Abbotoni/Leshure) to approve the request for RFP bids for cemetery landscape maintenance

Discussion : Robin Mayer asked why the email used the word "Trustees" rather than "Committee" since the word change hadn't been approved yet by the Board. **Matt Lutkus** responded that the official title in the ordinance is "trustee." Committee member and trustee historically have been interchangeable. Trustee is the correct term. In fact, in many towns it is the sexton. The committee has done this work for many years for free and Matt would like the Board to consider a stipend for the Chairperson in the future. **Patti Whitten**, the Chairperson of the Committee, has done a tremendous job. **Mark Hagar** said he would like the change to happen while she is still in the position.

On motion (Hagar/Mayer) to approve the Request for Proposals for the cemetery landscape maintenance.

Vote: 4-0-1(Pinkham

abstaining as he may wish to submit a proposal)

5. Warrant for Special Town Meeting Oct, 7, 2019

Matt Lutkus said CMP needs an easement in order to install the solar array at the old dump. Meeting is to ratify the request.

On motion (Mayer/Abbotoni) to approve the Special Town Meeting on October 7, 2019. Vote: 5-0-0

IX. Selectmen's Discussion Items

Mark Hagar brought up the issue of overgrowth and brush in general area around the stop signs, particularly at Egypt Road, Abbey Lane, etc. It was brought up at the last meeting but has not been addressed. Some towns have excavator chippers with rotatory cutters. The result initially is not very pretty but regrowth is fast and it fills in nicely. The cost of this would be cheaper than manual labor. It chops everything up and in time fills in. He is recommending contracting this out, not purchasing the unit. Roadside brush is growing and it presents a traffic hazard with poor visibility.

Robin Mayer commented on three things:

- 1.) the new paving is nice and smooth.
- 2.) tomorrow night (9/19/19) is the County Budget Committee meeting and she is hoping someone will go. Presently Damariscotta has no representation
- 3.) monthly reports from Departments are lagging way too far behind. She just received April's reports. They are only useful if they are timely. **Matt Lutkus** said he believed they wanted to send them all at once, and when one or two Departments were missing, it held up the whole process. He will "get on them" about the issue.

Just before adjournment, **Carol Haeberlin**, owner of Why Not, spoke up saying she was here because she was told her request for a liquor license would be discussed tonight. It was not on the agenda and the office was closed. Postponing this issue until next month would delay getting final State approval. She already had the conditional approval, all she needed was the Town approval.

On motion (Abbotoni/Hagar) to approve the liquor license contingent upon staff review of necessary paperwork.

Vote: 5-0-0

Josh Pinkham asked if a public hearing was necessary. Matt said he wasn't sure and he would sort it out tomorrow morning. If no hearing was necessary, Board members could come by the Town Office to sign the paperwork.

X. Adjournment

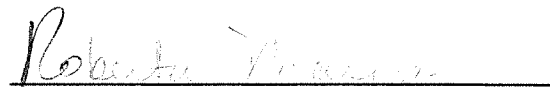
On motion (Abbotoni/Leshure) to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Vote: 5-0-0

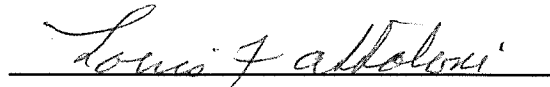
Respectfully submitted,

Lynda L. Letteney
Recording Secretary

We, the undersigned, do hereby approve as written, or with corrections as noted, the minutes of the above-designated Board of Selectmen meeting.



Roberta Mayer, Chairperson



Louis Abbotoni



Mark Hagar



Amy Leshure



Joshua Pinkham

Town of Damariscotta, Board of Selectmen, signed this date: _____

