

**ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY JULY 25, 2016
7:00 P.M.
ROCKPORT OPERA HOUSE**

Present: Chair William (Bill) Chapman, Vice-Chair Kenneth McKinley, Brendan Riordan, Geoffrey Parker and Owen Casas. Also present: Richard C. Bates, Town Manager, Department Heads: Megan Brackett, Finance Director

I. Call Meeting to Order

Bill Chapman, Chair called the meeting to order July 25, 2016 at 7:03 P.M.

Bill - The Town of Rockport lost a good friend, Anthony Hutchinson, he was involved with the Recreation Committee, a longtime football coach with Five Town football. There is a Go Fund Me for donations to help with the kids.

Owen – wanted to mention he was a Marine.

a. Approval of the minutes

- Monday, July 18, 2016, the revised version.

Geoff moved to approve the minutes for July 18, 2016. Seconded by Ken. VOTE: 4 FOR – 0 OPPOSED – 1 – (Brendan abstained from voting as he had not been present at the July 18, 2016 meeting).

b. Select Board Meetings:

- Next Meeting – Monday, August 8, 2016, 7:00 livestreamed, will be devoted primarily to ADHOC Library Planning Committee making their recommendations to the Select Board on how to proceed with the building of the new Library.

c. Announcements – As noted on the Agenda

- Reminder of meeting tomorrow night at the Waste Water Treatment Plant with Camden Select Board Meeting at 6:30.
- Special Election for Maine School Administrative District 28 will be Tuesday August 2nd from 8 am to 8 pm at the Town Office in the Richardson Room. We encourage people to come out and vote.
- The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Wed, August 3rd and Thursday August 4th as they relocate to the Richardson Room,
- The Town's Clerks office is being temporary located in the Richardson room while renovations are done the month of August. A new entry door system will be installed.
- November 8th we will have a regular election. Also an election to fill out the term the remaining 2 years of the Library Committee Member Stephanie Lash.

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- More information will be coming out for nominating applications in the next week or so.

d. Committee Openings – As noted on the Agenda

e. Agenda Changes – none

f. Public Comment – none

II. Town Manager's Report

Rick - The Manager's report is posted on the website. On the Town's calendar you will be able to get the livestream link for tonight's meeting along with the agenda and the Managers report. The packet data for today's meeting is there as well to try and make it easier for people to watch from home and follow along.

Thank you to Dave Jackson for his expert landscaping advice regarding the entrance way to the Opera House.

The two planters in front of the Opera House were done by the garden club they did a good job.

The School Street project is underway, they are hitting more ledge than we had hoped, it effected the installation of the water line and drainage lines. Also on the School Street side the catch basins are bigger and have to go deeper than they used to be to make sure it is done correctly. We are behind schedule but are getting everything done that needs to be done.

We are having a similar problem on Summer Street as well with the amount of ledge that we are hitting, which slows down the process. They have to keep portions of the road open, can't close off the whole road.

The High sidewalk is due to start in September. Still waiting for CMP to relocate the poles, and Fair Point poles.

The Mill Street Bridge project did get their poles moved and all the power lines. This project is going along very well.

The Pascal Avenue is still on schedule for after Labor Day weekend with the resurfacing and high sidewalk.

The West Street Extension sidewalk extension will begin in the next couple of weeks. Orange lines are designed and laid out, emails are going back and forth with DOT. Road will get narrow, because of the sidewalk. Hopefully it will slow traffic down. The other challenge will be our plow driver's will need to get used to the sidewalks.

Library:

The air conditioning unit was being installed last Thursday. Ben is back from vacation. The book sale was a huge success.

Planning and Community Development:

The ORC had a summer session which was finished in one session. Jamie is working on the Conservation Commission Grant. Scott is on vacation.

Fire Department:

The Fire Department has been very busy with accidents, and hose testing. The Chief has been working on the safety program and training for all departments with the goal of getting all departments SHAPE certified.

General Assistance:

Stacey has been pretty busy with housing due to lack of finding affordable housing. 2-3 cases a week.

Finance:

Working on CIP as well as analysis of the predicted costs with the Library.

Public Works Department:

Busy with keeping up with brush cutting, drainage and culvert work. Replaced several culverts on West Street Extension. Lots of comp hours several employees out. Cross walk painting will hopefully be able to get this done soon, due to high humidity it is hard to get the paint to dry.

Police Department:

A lot going on, good things are happening, the two Towns working together has been a benefit to both towns. The additional supervision has helped. The Chief is working on training and upgrading equipment. Last week, the Camden officers covered about 10 hours of patrol time to give Rockport employees some time off.

Ken – have we had any progress with the applications for the vacant positions?

Rick – Yes, and no, right now we are doing ok with the help of Camden.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

Linda is gearing up for the special election for the school board.

Assessing:

Lots of inspections are being done with Caitlin's help, another example of the two Towns working together, inspections are going much quicker and more thoroughly.

Harbor:

Parking at the Harbor is becoming increasingly a more difficult problem. Abbie is working with PD and PW to come up with methods. We will start ticketing for illegal parking. We don't want to litter the park with a bunch of 2-hour parking signs.

Randy's approach is to put a 2-hour parking sign on the pavement down the hill

Between 10:30am to 1:30 are the worst times, so the Harbor employees will mark the cars, then when the PD comes thru at 12:30 they will start writing tickets. The first round will be a warning. People will not be happy.

The Harbor is now set up to take credit cards. Trio cash out has to be done daily, which comes to the town office daily.

III. Unfinished Business

a. Review and vote to accept the revised By-Laws of the Rockport Opera House Committee

Bill – they have an excellent mission statement

Ken – concern with by-laws with a specific date and time, probably better not to include.

Rick – what was happened in the past was that there was no date – no information was available

Owen – great to have a reminder

Brendan moved to approve the Rockport Opera House Committee By-Laws approved May 9, 2016. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

b. Discuss setting a date for a special town meeting to vote on the Post-2018 disposal of Rockport's Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

Bill - We may need to call a Special Town meeting toward the end of August depending on what goes on at the MCSW meeting this Wednesday evening. I will be very up front about it and I am going to push to suggest to the all the towns that we hold special town meetings to vote on the idea of MRC Fiberight being the receptacle of our solid waste because our deadline is the end of August, and they were very clear to me and Owen that there will be penalties if you do it later.

Owen – there are two separate penalties.

Bill – We had a vote in June, and 3 of the 4 towns turned down to go with Ecomaine.

Bill/Ken – discussed Bill's draft letter on the Mid Coast Solid Waste Commission's (MCSW) pending action. There was some concern about whether the letter might be seen as advocating for one side or another.

Bill –put this on hold and move on to the recommended appointment to the Planning Board.

Ken moves to amend the agenda to table this item of unfinished business regarding MSW until after item C. Seconded by Owen.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

a. Committee Application(s)

- Louis Laquaglia – Planning Board

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Bill - likes his application and resume.

Bill - Does the Board have any questions for Mr. Laquaglia?

Ken – I am glad to have you volunteer to serve, planning board is an important board in town and requires a lot of work and dedication.

Lou – I have been on a planning board in the past. Revitalized an entire neighborhood.

Ken – It is nice to have someone coming in from far away who will have a new set of eyeballs, this will be helpful

Owen – overly qualified!

Ken – I move to appoint Louis Laquaglia for the Planning Board. The term runs through June 30th 2019

Ken moved to appoint Louis Laquaglia to the Planning Board with a term running through June 30, 2019. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

b. Continued MCSW

Bill – would like to make a recommendation and discuss what message the board wants to send.

Brendan – is there any only concern if neither of these letters are sent.

Bill – no, just want to put some urgency to it, rather than let the clock run out on the decision.

Ken – Recommends all 4 towns hold town meeting prior to deadline date, but without a direct request for a specific action.

Brendan – we can't force them to make a recommendation, but we need to give them time to do it.

Bill – this is intended to express this Select Board's request to at least have the citizen's in all 4 towns vote on MRC Fiberight. Ecomaine was turned down by 3 of the 4 towns.

Owen moved to send Ken's Draft letter to MCSW Corporation Board of Directors before their meeting on July 27th. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

IV. Public Meeting

- a. None this meeting

V. New Business

b. Acknowledgement of Gifts to the Town

- o None this meeting

c. Committee Resignation(s)

- o Eliza Hazelton – Pathways Committee

Ken vote to approve Eliza Hazelton's resignation from the Pathways Committee and to send a thank you for her service. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

d. Discuss and vote to direct the Cemetery Committee to review and update the fees related to burials in the Rockport Town Cemeteries

Owen – are they going to look at surrounding cemeteries?

Ken – our fees are low, so yes we would like to do some comparisons with the surrounding towns.

Ken moved to direct the Cemetery Committee to review and update the fees related to burials in the Rockport Town Cemeteries. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

e. Review the Reserve Accounts Policy

Owen – what is the usefulness of having a limit on a reserve accounts?

Ken – The idea for our limit is to avoid parking a lot of tax payer's money that doesn't get spent.

Megan – intention behind limits is to make sure the reserve account does not exceed the expected replacement value

After extensive discussion, Bill suggested that the Board table this discussion till August 22nd – Ask Rick to come up with specific recommendations, ideas or thoughts, on the accounts and limits. Would like to have something to vote on by the end of August.

Owen – Capital Improvements Committee, when do they meet and should they look at things beforehand?

Bill – Let's say here is what we think and have them review.

f. Direct the Town Manager to review the policy for renting the Marine Park for weddings and other events during the peak summer months.

Bill – we have rental check list and fee schedule – large events are taking up most of the park for 7 – 8 days. Inconvenient to citizens of the Town.

Ken – do we want park to be taken over and made unavailable for the town residents? Fundamental discussion we need to have.

Bill – Rockport has become a destination for weddings. Should the town be receiving compensation - inconvenience fee – sometimes they are charitable events. Do we want to consider those in the same light as a wedding?

Rick – in my mind there are differences, public purpose vs private events.

Ken moved to direct the Town Manager to review the policy for renting the Marine Park. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

g. Discuss and vote to appoint a voting representative to the Camden-Rockport Middle School Visioning Committee

Bill – Owen has been attending but has not been officially appointed. Do we want to have an official voice on that committee?

Ken moved to appoint Owen Casas a voting representative to the Camden-Rockport Middle School Visioning Committee. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

h. Direct the Town Manager to resurrect the Provider Agency portion of the budget for inclusion in the FY 17-18 Budget

Bill – we used to have a series of line items for Provider Agencies where the town would donate to certain agencies that serve Rockport residents, and take it to the Budget Committee. We need to put in a limit with the idea of reducing it within a couple of years. A few months ago we had a discussion as to whether or not of reintroducing this as a budget item, the citizens have an option of saying yes or no.

Ken – most of the surrounding Towns have this in their budgets.

Ken moved to direct the Town Manager to begin the process of reintroducing the Provider Agency portion of the budget for inclusion in the FY17-18 Budget. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

i. Sign a Quitclaim Deed for 18 Chickawaukie Pond Road transferring ownership from the municipality of the Town of Rockport to Michelle Gallant.

Ken – the town took over the property due to nonpayment of taxes, the land has no public access, so the Town put it out for bid.

Rick – highest bidder was not willing to conform to the restrictions that were put on the lot. Small non-buildable lot on the water. 2nd highest bidder lives diagonally across the street.

Ken moved to approve the purchase price of \$14,100 that was determined by a sealed bid and signed by the Municipality Quitclaim Deed from the Municipality of the Town of Rockport to Michelle Grant. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE: 5 FOR - 0 OPPOSED

Ken – Would like to have the attorneys go through these documents, we do not want highest bidder coming back and say we did something wrong.

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Rick –we have now changed attorneys, the documents were reviewed previously

Owen – Are the restrictions listed as a non-buildable lot??

Rick – We always have the right to reject any or all bids

Brendan – if we are taking less money there needs to be a reason for it

Ken – We don't want any legal liability

Ken added to motion that the documents be reviewed by the current legal counsel. Seconded by Geoff.

VOTE: 5 FOR - 0 OPPOSED

j. Attend to the Maine Municipal Association Voting Ballot

Bill – we are entitled to vote for the new members of the Maine Municipal Association Board of Directors.

We cannot write in any candidates.

(1) for a 1-year term – Vice President

Linda Cowen – Counselor - City of South Portland

(3) for 3 year terms - Directors

James Gardner – Town Manager – Town of Easton

Christine Lands – Town Manager – Town of Bethel

Mary Sabins - Town Manager – Town of Vasselboro

Bill – their resumes were included in our packets.

Bill motioned to vote for all. Ken moved, Seconded by Brendan.

VOTE 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

VI. Wastewater Commissioners

- a. None at this meeting

VII. Liaison Reports

Ad Hoc Library Planning Committee

Brendan – very well organized and run, meeting. They need to finalize the recommendation to the fund raising committee and what the recommended bond amount will be.

MCSW

Bill - Meeting this Wednesday, maybe follow up meeting on August 10th – additional time. Pushing that we have a vote by the end of August.

Parks Committee

Concern with the redesign of memorial park – not sure if they like idea of moving memorials to the front as the AHLPC library is proposing

Ken – parks committee want to be engaged

Brendan – can I let the AHLPC know the Parks Committee wants to be involved more

Geoffrey – maybe they should show up for the meetings

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Bill – they may also have concerns with taking down the oak trees.

Library Committee

We talked about capital campaign and the process. Transferred money that accumulated in their funds to building a new library to the Town, the Town is holding the money.

Owen – how much?

Bill - \$70,000

Investment Committee

Met considering major revision to how Town money is invested, including weighing return on investment against social value. Will revisit in August.

Friends of Rockport Public Library – looking at having a second sale. Need space to store their book storage contract is in question. Currently looking at other options.

Conservation Commission - Shared concern about Goodies Beach and the pollution problem how long it has dragged on, appears to be moving slowly. I am meeting with Jamie and Rick to make sure it's getting attention it needs.

Harbor Committee – I went on a long walk through Harbor Park with Mike and Abby, discussed long term goals. Parking is a priority. I would like to expand dinghy space over the long term. We are taking money from people every year, with no prospect of them coming off waiting list. There has been no turn over the last few years.

American Legion

Owen - The monument still has not been moved. Don't know what we are waiting on.

Rick – still waiting on the owner of the property, has decided he wants to keep this on his land. Jamie is working on this. The solution may be to put landscaping around it in order to leave it there.

Recreation Committee

They have not met since the funding was approved, working with the newest member to start putting the meetings together.

Parks Committee

Potential for grants? Does not believe there were many if any options for park renovation.

Pathways Committee

The sidewalk from Maritime Farms to Quarry Hill. Unsure where we are at in the process, who speaks for who, what were we getting.

Ken – One issue is that the grant was awarded 3 years ago and personnel has changed.

Middle School Visioning Committee

Between now and January the goal is to push out as much information as possible to the public to get feedback on the options: patching, restoration or new construction.

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Owen – Recommendations of groups in town to present to?
Chamber of Commerce business other big groups of people involved in the community, present the information and get feedback.

Ordinance Review Committee

Ken - Has had its first and last summer session

Recommending that we repeal the Sidewalk Ordinance.

Road Acceptance Ordinance – ORC recommending waiving 50 % requirements if connected to town roads down to 25% and adding requirement for a town road to be accepted it has to be connected to another town road and adding requirement for a town road to be accepted it has to be connected to another town road.

Hotel issue – possibly allowing them in the downtown district, someone has desire to build a hotel in the near future.

Possible ORC recommendations include limits on number of hotel rooms. Probably a couple of years out so there is no urgency to put anything on the ballot.

Legacy Rockport

Has not met but they did sponsor the Jazz concert, not many people attended

Cemetery Committee

Has not met.

Opera House Committee

Geoff - I was off and was not able to attend.

Planning Board

Did not meet

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. None this evening

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m. Seconded by Brendan.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hamilton
Administrative Assistant