

**ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY DECEMBER 7, 2015
7:00 P.M.
ROCKPORT OPERA HOUSE**

Present: Chair William Chapman, Vice-Chair Kenneth McKinley, Tracy Lee Murphy, Geoffrey Parker and Owen Casas. Also present: Richard C. Bates, Town Manager; Department Heads, Mike Young, Public Works Director and Jamie Francomano, Director of Planning and Community Development and members of the public

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – William Chapman, Chair called the meeting to order at 7: 01P.M.

Bill – acknowledged the passing of John (Jack) McCormick. He served many years on the Planning Board. He also served on the Select Board from 1987 – 1990. He was instrumental in the building of the recreation park in Rockport. We send our condolences to his family.

- a. Approval of the minutes of the:

Monday, September 14, 2015 meeting of the Select Board

Tracy Murphy moved to accept the minutes of the Monday, September 14, 2015 meeting of the Select Board with an addition on page 11, the fifth paragraph should have a comma after “here” and “property.” Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Owen – had a comment regarding the wording about the monument in Glen Cove being moved a few feet. He expressed that it is actually more than a few feet.

Tuesday, October 13, 2015, meeting of the Select Board

Tracy Murphy moved to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 13, 2015 meeting of the Select Board. Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Thursday, October 29, 2015 meeting of the Select Board

Thursday, November 5, 2015 meeting of the Select Board

Monday, November 9, 2015 meeting of the Select Board

Tuesday, November 17, 2015 meeting of the Select Board.

Thursday, November 19, 2015 Executive Session of the Select Board

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Tracy Murphy moved to approve the minutes of the Thursday, November 19, 2015 Executive Session of the Select Board. Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

b. Regular Select Board Meeting on Monday, January 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Rockport Opera House Meeting Room, to be televised on Channel 22

c. Announcements: See Agenda

d. Upcoming Select Board Workshops – None

e. Committee Openings: See Agenda

f. Agenda Changes – None

g. Public Comment – None

II. Town Manager's Report – see attached

Rick – prior to the meeting the Board toured the site for the temporary library. There are still many things that will need to be done at the last minute. The site is suitable but not perfect.

Jamie – The Fire Marshal inspected the site and recommended some additional signage and widening of some of the door openings. The approval is for two years. Any longer and the fire marshal will have to review the site.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Approval of the 2016 Harbor Fee Schedule

Bill – it should be noted that last month we asked that electric rates be listed. It should also be noted that we offer pump out and that it is free.

Kenneth McKinley moved to approve the updated Marine Park/Harbor Fees schedule as presented except it should be 1/1/2016 and not 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2016. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

a. No public hearing scheduled

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Acknowledgment of Gifts to the Town: None

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b. Committee Resignation(s): - None

c. Committee Application(s):

- John Viehman – Ad Hoc Technology Committee

Geoff – even though John is not here I can vouch for him and feel that he is a good choice for this committee.

Kenneth McKinley moved to approve John Viehman to the Ad Hoc Technology Committee. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

- Jan Rosenbaum – Ad Hoc Technology Committee

The Board decided to wait to vote on Jan's appointment as they were not furnished his application.

Owen – expressed that he thought Gus, our IT person would also make a good choice to be on the committee.

Rick – I am sure that he would be willing to help out on the committee since he knows a lot of the town's needs technologically. He could be a nonvoting member.

Geoff – the chair could ask him to be an ex-officio member.

Bill – this should be a five member committee.

d. Camden-Rockport Pathways Committee Report

Geoffrey Scott, Chair, Leni Gronros and Helen Shaw were present.

Geoff S. – there are thirteen members on the committee, they are very active and have a lot of energy. I would like to thank the Select Board for all of their support over the last 5-7 years.

The master plan was created as a planning guide, a resource to our towns and to create bicycle paths, walking paths, walking paths, safer routes when walking to our schools, and to complement traffic calming. We want to be part of the comprehensive plan regarding traffic when you revise your current plan.

At budget time we will be asking for funding for use of any future grants when we are required to make a match to what monies are granted.

Bill – what amount of money would you and the committee recommend?

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Owen - \$5,000

Geoff S. – I sent an inventory a week or so ago on what we see as a priority when deciding what areas of town need a sidewalk or pathway.

Geoff P. – should the high sidewalk on Pascal be a rebuild or maintenance only?

Mike – the sidewalk will be widened and we are working on the possibility of moving the poles across the street.

Bill & Rick – the project is going out to bid this winter.

Geoff S. – our highest priority project is Route 1 and hopefully will be done in 2016-17. The funding keeps getting pushed out further and further. It depends how we handle the crossing at Hannaford's. It will be a pathway and not a sidewalk.

We are searching for grants for the Route 90 project. It will be done in five phases. It is more saleable because we are connecting destinations (schools and the recreation center).

Leni – we are getting a lot of support for that project.

Geoff S. – MDOT will be changing the signals at Route 90 and Route 1. We can ask them to put in a pedestrian signal. All we need is a landing pad. We just put down some asphalt and make the pad on both sides of Route 1.

Jamie – I am willing to work with MDOT regarding Routes 1 & 90 and with the Pathways Committee as well.

Owen – I want to thank all of our Camden neighbors for all of their help on this committee.

Ken – this is a great example of the two towns working together on a committee.

e. Vote to accept the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for Rockport

Owen Casas moved to accept the Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathways Master Plan for Rockport as prepared by the Camden-Rockport Pathways Committee. Kenneth McKinley seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

f. Request by owners of the P.A.W.S. Dog Park on Camden Street for a street light at the entrance to the parking lot

The P.A.W.S. building will be changed to an accounting firm and a kennel.

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Kenneth McKinley moved to approve the request by the owners of the P.A.W.S. Dog Park on Camden Street for a street light at the entrance to the parking lot. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion.

Bill – what is the cost to install the light?

Geoff – what kind of process do we want to have going forward regarding street light additions?

Tracy – we don't want the responsibility for P.A.W.S. (the dog park) once they vacate that building. It is a slippery slope. What about the next person who presents the same request? We need a policy.

Bill – that is a valid point.

Ken – is it worth our energy if these request only comes up every ten years?

Tracy – what kind of precedence are we putting forward?

Mike – I would endorse something from the town as we should have a light at the dog park. A lot of our residents use the park and I would rather see them go to the park instead of to the harbor park to walk their dogs.

Owen – feels that there is validity in Tracy's statement. Simple wording would be good.

Geoff – we have only had four requests in ten years. Would you like to table this item and have someone come up with some guidelines?

Bill & Ken – both felt that it should be left up to the Select Board to make that judgment call.

Ken – feels that there are reasons to have a light at the dog park. It is dark and it serves many members of the public

Bill – a motion to table overrides a motion.

Tracy Murphy moved to table this item until their January meeting after they have the information of the cost of installation. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

g. Provide specific guidance to the Ad Hoc Technology Committee

Tracy – we are putting the cart before the horse. We have only one person appointed to the committee. We need deliverable information before budget session.

Ken – it is too late for this budget year.

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Geoff – disagrees and feels that the committee could come up with something within two meetings.

Mr. Parker will be the liaison.

John – my questions are should we have free Wi-Fi at the Marine Park and what do you want from this committee?

Owen – the ability for residents to be able to do their transactions from the comfort of their own home. We could use Twitter to report issues when departments are closed.

Rick – it would help us to be better able to communicate with our residents.

Bill – “communications are a two way street otherwise it is a lecture.”

Owen – we should have benchmarks (realistic versus unrealistic). We could leave the timelines up to the committee.

Tracy – this is an “Ad Hoc” committee, so it is up to us to do that.

Geoff – it is important to remember that this committee is unique. We should not be worried about mandates or timeframes.

Bill – the committee is starting as an ad hoc committee but we can change it to a permanent committee in the future if we feel that we should.

No action was taken.

h. Discuss whether or not to provide written charge to the Ad Hoc Library Planning Committee

The Board was given a copy of general guidelines for the committee by Ken.

Tracy – we already have a mission statement that we agreed on and these charges do not go with it. What about long term use and cost? There is nothing about staffing, archives or storage space. It needs to be aligned with and support the mission statement.

Owen – what do you see as a charge?

Tracy – something to match the mission statement. Some things have certain points and then others are dropped.

Geoff – the committee’s job is to find us three architects to choose from. I think that the committee’s task section works very nicely.

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Rick – we do not have a lot of time. The committee needs to be ready to step into the next piece to have something tangible ready for the voters next November. It is a short period of time. They have to be able to select an architect to be able to have something to present to the voters.

Ken – I believe that the charge does support the mission statement. I think that they are important.

Geoff – what if we take the last section of the list and put it under the mission statement?

Owen – the committee needs to hold true to the mission statement.

Tracy – I have a problem with eight additional charges and will not vote for them. I do not think that they balance and that they just muddy the waters.

Bill – we have applications from some highly intelligent people and I don't think that we need the reinforcement.

There was a lot of discussion back and forth on rather or not they needed the presented charges.

Tracy – we need common ground and I will not support what is being presented.

There was more discussion back and forth.

Bill – tonight our only worry is about the initial tasks.

Tracy – it needs to be in writing and I am not willing to sit here and write it tonight. It has been a long day. It needs to be in writing. We need to do this and bring it back for discussion next month, but not tonight. We should set a date and work on a list as a whole group and present it to the committee.

Bill – agreed that the five of us need to come up with a list.

Owen & Geoff – disagreed with that.

Tracy – it looks like you have three of you for it, so go for it.

Ken – I was just trying to enumerate what we have discussed over the years. I was just trying to give the committee that list.

Rick – tried to smooth the discussion so that the Board could come to an agreement.

Bill – let's look at the tasks list. When do we want the committee to report back to us?

Tracy – why wouldn't January be the appropriate time?

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Bill – what about giving them until January the 4th?

The Board discussed about having a second Select Board meeting on January 25th.

Geoff – we could give it to them in a preliminary form. We could give them the mission statement and tasks now and the other information later. The committee is the client.

Bill – we should hold off until we can come to an agreement. We will meet on Monday the 4th of January to iron this all out. I cannot agree to these eight items. We have other things to consider. They cannot send out an RFQ or RFP without our permission. We can meet on the 4th or 5th of January.

The Board discussed a timeline when they would need any information to be prepared to present the results to the residents and then to a vote. They would need the information by August 1st in order to meet the deadlines for a November 2016 ballot.

Ken – suggested March 17th as the date to complete the items requested of them and August 1st to have the concept plan with numbers, and to schedule the two public meetings in order to be able to go to the voters.

The Board will meet tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. at the town office to interview the candidates and to approve a plan.

i. Set a date for an Executive Session to update the Town Manager's contract

The Board set the date for February 29, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the town office.

VI. WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS

a. Commitment of Sewer User Rates for the period of October 2015

Tracy – should we table these items until next month?

The Board decided to take no action.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

Tracy – the Planning Board met with Carmen enlightening the Board about MUBEC.

Bill – the Library Committee is meeting on Monday.

Ken – ORC started their weekly meetings. They voted to recommend the building section of MUBEC, but not the energy code. Last week they talked about the downtown issues and decided that we do not need another zoning amendment.

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We have started the conversation about the West Rockport Fire Station.

The Cemetery Committee is waiting to hear when the presenter can meet with us to talk about columbariums.

Northeast Ambulance has bought a building for their use. The service with them has been fine without any complaints.

The Conservation Commission is doing an easement walk tomorrow morning. They will be having a public meeting on pesticides in the spring.

Geoff – the Opera House will have a draft of their bylaws presented to them next month. They discussed that two smaller furnaces have been installed at the Opera House. They had a short meeting.

The Harbor Committee will not be meeting until April.

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not have a meeting this past month.

Bill – the Camden and Rockport Select Board will be meeting soon.

The Investment Committee will be addressing us next month.

The Library Committee will be meeting in two weeks. They will be working on fund raising.

MCSWC will be meeting on their annual budget next week.

The Fiber Committee will not be meeting until after the holidays. They are getting ready to take the information to the voters in June of 2016.

Owen – the Mallet Brothers will be playing at Simonton Corner Hall and it will be hopping.

The Parks Committee have tabled a meeting until March.

The Pathways Committee have shifted their focus to the River walk in Camden. They need a lot of easements from all of the property owners along the river. What can the town do to make it more appealing for a resident to grant an easement? Could we give a tax relief of some kind to the property owner on the property that the easement has been given?

The Recreation Committee, Martin (Camden) and I have met two times and wonder what a joint committee would look like. It could have four members from each town and one alternate each.

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Rick – I gave you the names of three possible candidates to be on our Recreation Committee.

Owen – I guess that I misunderstood what you were telling me. I will get right on it. I will reach out to Jon Duke or his wife and ask them to join the committee. I will work on the bylaws and set a meeting.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. No Executive Session

IX ADJOURNMENT

Geoffrey Parker moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 p.m. Tracy Murphy seconded the motion. VOTE: 5 FOR – 0 OPPOSED

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA M. GREENLAW
TOWN CLERK as RECORDING SECRETARY