

## REPORT ON THE SELECTBOARD MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2021

Prepared by Rick Cliffe

Note: These are not official minutes -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town website following Board approval at the next meeting. If anyone wishes to stop receiving these reports, they may simply hit "Reply" and request to be deleted from the list or text "Unsubscribe."

THE MEETING: The meeting was conducted on Zoom. SelectBoard members Rich Donaldson, Jon Collins, and Bronwen Tudor plus administrator Amanda Campbell were present. There were also 6 members of the public in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting of May 25 and June 1, 2021 were approved. They will be posted on the Town website.

MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING ITEMS: In my judgment, the following items were the most important things covered during the meeting.

- **Broadband:** There was a short discussion between the Board, Amanda, plus Terry Tyler and Carlos Barrionuevo representing the LLC. There were a number of specific issues and I didn't catch all of them. But my notes include the following.
  - Amanda is documenting discussion points from the workshop held last week. The Board discussed the need for a separate MOU to address issues not included in the lease document. Terry indicated that the LLC is happy to have the MOU. He noted that the LLC is already moving forward on some of the issues. Amanda will draft the MOU and send it to Terry.
  - The proposed lease should go to Town Counsel for review and comment.
  - Rich asked what happens if a new resident moves here after the network is up and operating but not serving this house. Is there a cost involved in adding service? What happens if the LLC decides to move their equipment out of the leased property?
  - The LLC is working with the Island Institute to setup a fund to help low income families afford the internet.
  - Carlos noted that Georgetown was awarded a Connect Maine grant for \$858,365. This grant will complete initial funding for the project.
  - Amanda said she, Susie and Alex have been receiving a lot of inquiries about the internet. She asked if a descriptive document can be added to the Town website for reference purposes. Bronwen said it needs to be clear that the LLC is not a Town entity. Carlos agreed that they can refer these inquiries to him.
- **Comprehensive Plan:** John McIlvain and Theo Holtwijk came to the meeting to provide an update on status of the Comprehensive Plan. It was approved at the 2019 Town Meeting but has not been approved by the State, primarily because of the Future Land Use section. Theo has been reviewing the State check sheets and comments. He has talked with the State representative twice. In an email to John and Amanda, he put forth a 6 step plan for updating and gaining State approval.
  - Put together a new submission, updated where appropriate.
  - State wants data less than 3 years old. They are somewhat flexible on this item.

- State didn't agree with Shoreland Zoning as "growth areas". He proposes to have Five Islands and Georgetown Center as the growth areas. Focus on roads and culverts as infrastructure.
- Include policies and strategies in the plan.
- Use State checklist and make sure that all State comments are addressed.
- See if the State will conduct an informal review by chapter.

He recommends doing the work as an editing process. Do not restart the committee. Get Selectboard approval before submitting to the State. Bronwen noted that she and Jon were on the committee. Rich asked if the update can go to the State before going to the Town. He asked what the timeline is. Theo indicated it should be complete by the end of summer. Rich suggest it might be possible to have Town approval on the November ballot.

The Board agreed to move forward as proposed.

- **Town Meeting:** Amanda advised that the Town Meeting warrant, budget, school budget presentation, and sample ballot were all posted at the town office, post office, general store, community center and wharf. They are also available on the Town website.
- **Route 127 Issues:** Rich mentioned that there was a near accident last weekend when a car drove off the edge of the pavement and into a deep rut. The driver overcorrected and came back across the road. There are numerous places on 127 with this type drop off at pavement edge. A separate issue was also brought up. An ambulance coming north on 127 at the junction with US-1 southbound cannot make the turn into the near lane without hitting the speed bumps recently installed by DOT. The jarring bumps could cause harm to the patient. Bronwen indicated that there is a large hole in the pavement near the junction with Seguinland Road. Rich said he would follow-up with DOT.
- **Future Meeting Structure:** Amanda pointed out that the Governor's current emergency order is due to expire June 13th. There has been no guidance to date on how this will affect town/committee meeting structure. She believes we must have an ordinance allowing people to participate remotely. This issue was tabled to a future meeting assuming that some guidance will be issued by the Governor's office.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Amanda reported on correspondence received. For a complete listing of this correspondence, see the Meeting Agenda on the Town website.

The most interesting items were:

- MMA announced that the MMA Convention will be held in-person at the Augusta Civic Center 9/30 and 10/1 this year. Rich attended two years ago. He pointed out that it's important to look at the specific working session offerings carefully.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- **County Communications:** Amanda gave a short update on the new tower. County is ready to install and activate it as soon as it is delivered.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Amanda provided the Board with a mark-up of the Sagadahoc County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Board accepted all the proposed changes and directed Amanda to send it in.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Adventure Trail MOU:** Georgetown Central School and the Town will review and approve this MOU annually. Review will be accomplished by the Conservation Committee.
- **Midcoast Humane 2021-22 Contract:** Amanda said it is basically the same as last year's contract. The Board approved it for signature.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

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<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Tuesday, June 15, 1-8 pm	Local Election	School	Election of local officials
Saturday, June 26, 10 am	Town Meeting	Behind the School	Bring your own chair

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