

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS
St. George Town Office
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 7, 2018

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Members present were: Richard Bates, Chairman; Randy Elwell, Jerry Hall, Wayne Sawyer, and Tammy Willey. Also present: Tim Polky and Elizabeth Curtis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REGULAR SESSION:

- Adjustments to Agenda: Thomas Armitage Scholarship Fund was added to the agenda under Old Business

- Minutes: The Select Board minutes of April 30, 2018 were amended as follows:
Page 5, first paragraph, line 5, change word seven to **six** members had....

On a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Hall, it was voted 4-0 to approve the Select Board minutes of April 30, 2018, as amended.

- Communications: The following communications were received.

- A letter from the Knox County Community Health Coalition. They would like to provide No Smoking signs to the town, but it would require the town to change its tobacco policy. Chair Bates suggested this item be discussed sometime after town meeting.
- An email from James Balano regarding his Aquaculture business. Chair Bates said Mr. Balano wants to expand his business in Wheeler's Bay, but before the Select Board discusses this issue, they should talk with Harbor Master Dave Schmanska. This item will be placed on next meeting's agenda.
- An email from Josiah Wilson asking if the School Board had given any thought about doing a feasibility study on having a 9-12 (grade) Academy in St. George and if he needed to petition the school board to start this process? Consensus of the Select Board was the email should be forwarded to the St. George School Board.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of May 7, 2018 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$621,370.39 and included the May school payment, one week of payroll, legal fees of \$2,639 for the Wyeth Reading Room appeal, and the town website of \$3,750.

Chair Bates asked if Ms. Curtis would provide a breakdown on what fraction of money had been spent on legal fees for the Wyeth Reading Room and on the Maine Aqua Ventus project and make the information available for town meeting. Ms. Curtis said she would.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Assessing Update: Mr. Polky reported that Assessing Agent Bob Gingras was at the town office this week to finish the pick-up work.

- Committee Meetings:

Senior Luncheon will be held on May 8. Mr. Polky will be the guest speaker and said he will do a review of the town warrant articles.

Planning Board Meetings:

- May 8th Planning Board meeting was cancelled.
 - A Public Hearing is scheduled for May 22 at 6 p.m. to cover three town ordinances: The Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, the Site Plan Review Ordinance, and the Flood Plain Management Ordinance. Mr. Polky said the State made a minor change to the Flood Plain Management Ordinance which would make the ordinance easier to work with.
 - A regular Planning Board meeting is scheduled for May 22 at 7 p.m.
- Wyeth Reading Room: Mr. Polky updated the Select Board on the legal status of the Wyeth Reading Room. He had received an email from Attorney Amanda Meader on May 4, 2018, stating the Wyeth Reading Room complaint had been filed. He said both the town and Ms. Bean's attorney had filed a reply to the complaint, and the plaintiffs had replied to that brief. Mr. Polky said there may be several more briefs to follow.
 - Roadside Clean-Up: Scheduled for May 12, starting with a 7:30 a.m. pancake breakfast fundraiser for St. George Days.
 - Website Update: Mr. Polky said the new website is scheduled to go online Wednesday, May 9, 2018.
 - Electricity Spikes at the Town Office: Selectperson Hall said this was the week each year that the town office tends to spike over the electricity limit. Mr. Polky said he had discussed the surge issue with Ben Vail who said Diane Oelberger and Cherie Yattaw knew how to work the dishwasher (at the Senior Luncheon) to prevent the spikes.
 - Solar Panel Electricity Output: Mr. Polky said the town was buying electricity from ReVision Energy and ReVision was selling electricity to CMP. Polky said it was up to ReVision to cover what they were selling to the town. Selectperson Hall wondered if the town would be above the 90% because there would be some dark days in the winter where there may be snow on the panels? He reported that currently, the output looked very good.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Conservation Commission: Selectperson Willey reported that the CC met on May 3 at 4 p.m. and discussed the following areas.

- The stream restoration project. Anne Cox did a presentation on the Ripley Creek Landing. Ms. Cox created a design plan to remove invasives and replant with natural plants native to Maine. She has not completed a cost estimate yet.
- The Alewife and Restocking Project. Willey said the CC was concerned about the increase in occurrences of high tides and that too much salt water was starting to drift into the marsh. She was not sure about the future of the project but thought it would continue and the CC would continue to monitor the salt water issue.
- Rock ladder pool system. The CC got an initial quote on a rock ladder pool system that would go into the marsh. The cost of the work would be between \$60,000 and \$100,000 but Willey added this was just a beginning thought, not a final plan or final cost.

Chair Bates asked about the dam at the marsh. Polky said getting the water level up would not be easy to do as there were environmental regulations in addition to property rights. He explained that all the property owners along the marsh owned to the center of the brook, and if the area was flooded, property owners would lose property. Selectperson Hall noted that was the way it used to be. Polky said it did not matter, the town does not own the property, the property owner does. Polky gave an overview of how the town had used the marsh years ago and how the beaver dams came to be.

- Invasives project. The CC developed a framework for the project and will start to map those with a GPS. The school children are learning about invasive plants, and they will start work on removing invasives on the school property.
- Footpaths were discussed, and the CC had a Clean-Up Day on May 5 from 9 a.m. to noon. Trees were removed, and new bridges were being built. Selectperson Willey said there are plans to work on High Island.
- Finalizing a management plan with the Land Trust Project on Meadowbrook to turn the land over to the town. The CC is still working on this plan.
- Clark Island Open House was held on Saturday, May 5 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to explore the Clark Island area. The property is under an option to purchase by Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Chair Bates was told that approximately 20 people attended the open house.
- Educational programs are being planned for the summer and fall months.

OLD BUSINESS:

- First Advisors Investment Agreement: Ms. Curtis and Mr. Polky met with Matt Weaver and Laura Comer of First Advisors. They reviewed all the points that Selectperson Hall had asked about, and First Advisors created all the agreements and all the specifics for St. George.

The Select Board discussed the issue of receiving information and whether to opt in or out of the disclosure. Ms. Curtis said the town has the choice of Option #1: I object to the disclosure by First Advisors of any information about myself, or Option #2: I do not object to the disclosure by First Advisors of any information about myself or my account. First Advisors said if the town wants to receive the information, choose Option #2. First Advisors recommends Option #1, the I object option.

Ms. Curtis said the town would receive less information and First Advisors would act on the town's behalf. Selectperson Hall and Chair Bates suggested selecting Option #1. Ms. Curtis said First Advisors would be willing to meet with the Administration and Select Board to give yearly updates or meet when requested.

Ms. Curtis said town Administration recommended having three names on the account – Timothy Polky, Elizabeth Curtis and Cherie Yattaw, in case one person was not available to act. Ms. Curtis explained each person would be given a complete description of their powers and stated that whenever any action was taken on this account, it would require two signatures.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Willey, to select Option #1: the "I Object" option as recommended by First Advisors which restricts the town's receipt of information on reports, proxies, voting and other information. The Select Board vote was 5-0; motion carried.

A motion was made by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Willey, to authorize the names of Tim Polky, Elizabeth Curtis, and Cherie Yattaw be placed on the First Advisors investment account and allow the above named to take action on this account. The Select Board vote was 5-0; motion carried.

Ranked-Choice Voting: Chairperson Bates said the Secretary of State was proceeding with plans on the process of ranked-choice voting. Information would be on Facebook and educational sessions were being held in the Rockland area. Ranked-choice voting would be used in the June 12, 2018 Democratic and Republican primaries. Mr. Polky said St. George uses a voter counting machine. The ballots would be collected and taken to Augusta to complete the counting process.

Mr. Polky said it is important for the voters to understand that they will need to make their candidate choices on the ballot by selecting a first, second, third and fourth choice.

- Thomas Armitage Scholarship Fund: Mrs. Armitage had been seeking an organization to oversee the funds which had been collected last year and donated in the name of Thomas Armitage for a scholarship. Mrs. Armitage decided to place the funds with the Maine Community Foundation, and she notified Ms. Curtis of this. Ms. Curtis said there is \$9,975.60 in the account. She will close the scholarship account at First National, request a bank check, and mail the check to the Maine Community Foundation.

On a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Willey, the Select Board voted 5-0 for Finance Director Elizabeth Curtis to close the Thomas Armitage Scholarship Fund bank account, request the money in the form of a bank check and mail the check to the Maine Community Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- School Budget Meeting Warrant and Budget Validation Referendum: Ms. Curtis received the School Budget Warrant from Business Manager Scott Vaitones. The Select Board signed all sections of the warrant.

- Municipal Release Deed for Jersey Road: Mr. Polky said according to the Jersey Road deed, there is a walking path. Three of the four parties are in agreement with the written deed. One party is disputing the deed. Mr. Polky said this is not an abandoned street and it was never a road or a right-of-way. He said it is a parcel of land with no owner and was tax acquired property. Mr. Polky discussed this with the town's attorney who said it is legal and the one disputing party did not have to take the agreement. The piece of property will be divided into 4 sections and each abutter will receive a part of the land with a four foot right of way down the center for a walking path.

On a motion by Selectperson Hall, seconded by Sawyer, the Select Board voted 5-0 to authorize Town Manager Tim Polky to sign the Jersey Road deed.

- Preparation for Town Meeting: The Select Board and the Town Manager reviewed the warrant articles in preparation for town meeting. Chair Bates said the Select Board should be prepared to answer questions that may come up. He felt there may be several items up for discussion. Ms. Curtis said she will explain abatement questions if they arise, and explain Article 22, the property tax levy limit.

Chair Bates said it was important for the Select Board to remind people to get out to vote on Monday, May 14 and encourage the town citizens to attend town meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

A Select Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 17 at 6 p.m.

At 8:05 p.m., on a motion by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Willey, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson
Select Board Recording Secretary

