

**ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, March 27, 2017**

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, Town Manager; Elizabeth Curtis, Alexandra Rackliff Zable, Gerry Cushman, and Lori and Michael Landsberg.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- Liquor License: Dockside Seafood, LLC d/b/a The Dip Net Restaurant. Alexandra Rackliff Zable was present. She is the manager/proprietor of the Dip Net. There were no public comments. On a motion by Elwell, seconded by Sawyer, it was voted, 5-0, to close the public hearing.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

- Adjustments to Agenda: Chair Bates said Selectperson Willey had questions about the school generator and proposed the discussion be moved to New Business. Polky had a Quit Claim deed and proposed it be taken up under the Warrant section. Chair Bates suggested placing the Aqua Ventus discussion, after the committee reports.

- Minutes: On a motion by Sawyer, seconded by Willey, it was voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from March 20, 2017. The minutes were amended as follows:

Page 1, changes under Aqua Ventus Presentation:

Paragraph 1, line 3, change to read, making statements but to **speak** in the . . .

Paragraph 2, line 4, change to read, . . . and the nation: **wind** is one of the largest **potential** sources of domestic power.

Paragraph 3, line 4, change to running a 34 **kV** line.. .

Page 3, under Committee Reports: line 1, change to Comprehensive Plan **Committee** . . .

- Communications:

1. Selectperson Willey received an email regarding the Stream Restoration Project and forwarded the email to the other members on the Select Board.

2. Chair Bates received a Pen Bay Pilot news clip from Diane Oelberger regarding legislative bill LD500, An Act to Allow the Formation of Transportation Corridor Districts. Chair Bates contacted Senator Miramant about the bill who said if the bill passes, there may be funding available for programs such as Neighbor to Neighbor.

3. Ben Norton forwarded a message to the Select Board from Larry Bailey's mailing list, containing a view of opposing the Aqua Ventus cable landing in Port Clyde.

- Warrant: The warrant for the week of March 27 was reviewed and signed. The total expenses were \$43,942.56. Chair Bates asked about the payment to Corelogic. Curtis said Corelogic is

the name of an escrow account. It was for a double payment two different homeowners had on their property taxes through their escrow accounts and had also paid in person. To refund them, it had to go back through their escrow account.

- Quit Claim Deed: Polky presented a Quit Claim Deed to the Select Board for their signature.

#### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

##### - Committee Meetings:

- The Planning Board will meet on Tuesday, March 28, at 6 p.m. There will be a two-hour training session with DEP and the State Forrester to discuss Shoreland Zoning.
- The Wyeth Orientation Center meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Solid Waste and Recycling: Selectperson Willey said the committee met on March 22 at 7:15 a.m. They discussed the following:
  - The new trash pick-up businesses in St. George.
  - Business awareness - they trying to make the businesses aware of the importance of recycling and to get them more involved.
  - To make businesses aware of town ordinances related to recycling.
  - Roadside cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow.
  - The St. George Days Committee will be having the pancake breakfast and bottle drive that day.
  - Shredding event will take place on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the lower parking lot at the school. There will be a small fee charged to shred.
  - St. George Business Alliance Expo will be held on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - School recycling is on hold. The students are going on a tour of the transfer station, with hopes they will get a better understanding on how to recycle and how it works in St. George.
  - The Girl Scouts are going to be touring the transfer station on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Solid Waste committee will be attending the Solid Waste Recycling Conference and Trade Show on April 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Samoset Resort, Rockport.
  - There is a new textile recycling program at the Transfer Station. Selectperson Willey said the program is in conjunction with MRRA (Maine Resource Recovery Association) but we are currently working with Goodwill.
  - Wood chips are being chipped and sold to PERC. To date PERC has purchased about 200 tons.
  - St. George Days Parade. The Solid Waste committee plans to participate, again, this year. They plan to promote recycling, and say they have "big plans."

Chair Bates was concerned about haulers who are not recycling. He felt it sets a terrible example when many people are recycling. He said the Select Board needs to revisit the policy since the town does not currently charge a fee for commercial vendors. Polky said that was talked about, and it will need to be discussed further before making a decision. Selectperson Willey said she thought if people were made more aware of what was going on, it would probably help.

Chair Bates asked about the shredding event happening on the same day as the Business Alliance Expo. He heard the shredding was going to be quite expensive and asked who was paying to have them come. Selectperson Willey said it is going to be paid through the Solid Waste committee's budget. Polky said he hoped the town would recoup a lot of the money in fees. He hoped a lot of people participated in the event, and they will see how it goes.

- Harbor Committee: 10 Cold Storage Road. Selectperson Elwell said the committee met last week. They created a draft contract to let five fishermen use the wharf. They are working on rules for the fishermen, and it is moving forward. Chair Bates asked if there was a start date as the Select Board would need to work with Curtis on this, and would need to go through the town attorney. Selectperson Elwell answered, sometime after town meeting, and there will be a public hearing to let people know what is going on with the property. Selectperson Elwell said the next Harbor Committee meeting is on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

- Planning Board: Chair Bates said the Planning Board met on March 21<sup>st</sup>. There were three applications accepted as complete and then approved. They were:

- An application to repair the boathouse and install a ramp and float at 3 Derbyshire Lane.
- An application to replace the retaining wall at 6 Cold Storage Road
- An application to make additions to a house at 33 Cottage Road.

The application to create the Wyeth Orientation Center at 20 Horse Point Road had a public hearing on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The application was considered incomplete as the Planning Board needed more information on parking and landscaping plans.

- Ad-Hoc Solar Committee: Attendees were Tim Polky, Jerry Hall, Dan Verrillo and Richard Bates. Verrillo outlined the new ruling by the Maine Public Utility Commission on Net Energy Billing and requested the town revisit the 4Q15 proposal to install solar panels at the Transfer Station. The group agreed to revisit the various issues involved, including the terms of the Power Purchasing Agreements (PPA) offered by Maine Solar Solutions and ReVision Energy, and the current power usage in the town buildings and to meet again on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Formulating Response to Maine Aqua Ventus Proposal: Chair Bates said, speaking for himself, he came away from the meeting realizing the Select Board needs more public input and more information. There are a lot of aspects of this project he felt he did not know. He said the Aqua Ventus proposal is the Select Board's priority in the coming weeks. The Select Board needs to hold public hearings and get more public input. Selectperson Elwell said Aqua Ventus, could not answer a lot of the questions because they seemed like Department of Energy issues, and he wondered if the Board should get a representative from the DOE here. Chair Bates suggested creating a sub group to work on this, and proposed the Town Manager, Harbor Master, Selectperson Hall and Chair Bates, be the point people. Chair Bates would like the Select Board's approval, and they agreed.

Selectperson Sawyer said he did not have enough information about the project and had more questions than he had answers. He said if we do go forward with this project, we need to

make sure that there are more citizens in St. George who benefit from this than who would be inconvenienced by it. Quantifying benefits and inconveniences are hugely difficult.

Selectperson Willey went back and re-read the literature from the US Department of Energy. She said this is bigger than just Monhegan and Port Clyde and running it up to Rt. 73. She said it is a huge and massive project. She gets the sense that this is not for running through a small village like Port Clyde. It involves Hampden and Searsport and building bigger work sites so the turbines can be constructed. They have to be floated down the river and be assembled somewhere else. She was concerned about the high-tension lines being close to the road and the houses which sit close to the road.

Selectperson Hall said the amount of power is the same as what is in front of his father's house by Rt.73. When you talk about high voltage or high power, that is how high you are talking about. Chair Bates said as far as he knew there is a cap of two windmills, 12 megawatts, off Monhegan, but in terms of the assembly plant, and constructing the equipment in Searsport, that appeared to be an unlimited opportunity. Chair Bates said there was an analysis from the University based on the economic consequences of this. This one is a \$200 million-dollar project and then a prospect of a hundred times more windmills. The dollar amount is significant. Selectperson Willey said she was concerned about the possibility of clusters of windmills eventually being built.

Selectperson Willey said she would like to know what the impact would be on the fishing in the area. She said Aqua Ventus stated there are areas where the fishermen should not be around the windmill, but it is not strictly enforced.

Gerry Cushman had several questions and comments about Aqua Ventus. They were:

- Why would the town want to reach out to the Island Institute? What input would they have to direct this town into whether we want power cables coming into Port Clyde or windmills off Monhegan? (Chair Bates was told that Suzanne MacDonald was a source of information about this. He wants to keep an open mind and wants to gather facts, at this point.)
- The cable area is not enforced right now and the fishermen can fish over the area. Once the cable is laid, everything changes.
- Aqua Ventus lied about New Harbor and Bristol as those were the first towns Aqua Ventus wanted to run the cables through. Aqua Ventus said they changed the route because of fishing activity. Cushman said it was the towns that denied.
- This is a test site and they will sell the information to a company that will potentially put a windmill farm off the coast of Maine. The power will go to Boston and you will disperse 500 fishermen. It will not just affect this town, it will impact neighboring towns.
- Bar Harbor has a potential amendment with New England Fisheries Council where they are talking about a certain type of coral in that area, and they are talking about closing it. They just completed the study. This closure is less than one-third of what a windfarm would be, and they said that little area rejuvenates \$17 million per year

between bait, traps, fishermen, lobsters, truckers, everything. You need to look at the big picture. We will kill our fishing.

- Fishing is changing. This area is 20 miles off shore and was not heavily fished. With the climate change, these are the populated areas. This is where everybody is fishing now. You do not see many traps in close to shore like you used to because things are changing on the ocean.
- I did not hear them say one benefit other than a few hiccups in our power that we need down here. I did not know that St. George had "brown outs." He (Cushman) talked with CMP and was told they did not know St. George had a problem. It was running on full max.
- When you hold this public meeting and if it looks like St. George is moving ahead, I can have a minimum of 300 fishermen in that room, and they will not be happy. Fishing has been good to St. George, and we have to recognize that. I do not think this is good for St. George.
- People have said to him, "I did not buy that dock, to run a cable, a big electrical cable up through it."
- He said he did not want to sound insulting, but felt this project was a little bit bigger than the Select Board. Cushman said to Chair Bates, a major decision like this, it should go to a town vote. Cushman said it was his personal opinion.

Chair Bates said it is a big issue and it is not insulting. He explained Bristol had a nonbinding vote and did have a lot of people voting against it. Chair Bates said he was going over to meet the Chairperson of the Bristol Select Board later in the week. He wanted to fact gather, find out what happened, and understand what they did about it. Andrea Cox was chair of the advisory committee and he wanted to talk with her, also. Cushman said he was on that committee. He said their first choice was off Metinic Green. The fishermen did not want it there, so they showed up in Rockland in large numbers and shot it down. The reason it is proposed off Monhegan - they have about six active fishermen.

Michael and Lori Landsburg are summer residents. Lori's family has a long history in Port Clyde. They own the property adjacent to 10 Cold Storage Road. They said it was a surprise to hear about the possibility of building a large structure on the new town property. Some of their questions and concerns were:

- What is in it for the town?
- What they are offering? What are you walking away from?
- Would they be discussing what the value is to the town?
- They understood it was a tough situation. He and his wife are in favor, generally, about alternative energy sources. Many people want it, but they do not want it in their back yard.
- It is a challenging issue for many people but when you are talking about the cross benefit of how many people are going to be helped by it vs hurt by it; you look not only at the numbers of people but the degree.
- How do you put a value on somebody having a power line running across their home if their families have been here for generations vs someone else saving some money on electric power?

- They were glad this is still in the early stages. What is the time table?
- They were in favor of buying the property, but did not imagine there would be a park where people would be sitting on top of this incredible amount of electricity. .
- Landsburg said another concern is the health risks involved in the magnetic field and the electrical power that passes through your body.
- Would there be any issues about eminent domain where the government could come in?
- Would they start construction without knowing where the power was coming ashore?
- It seemed, Aqua Ventus are working their way down tips of peninsulas. Could they find less of a rural setting which is not in the middle of this little village? With the Vinalhaven project, they came in between Camden and Rockport. They did not come into Camden Harbor.
- Landsburg asked if the Select Board knew what compensation was offered to the other towns. Maybe they are talking about a more altruistic benefit, benefit to society as a whole in the state?
- They asked to be kept informed so they could have an opportunity to express themselves, as they did tonight.

Chair Bates and the Select Board agreed there is a lot of information that needs to be gathered before they can answer all the questions the public has. The Chair and Select Board explained some of what they knew so far about the project.

Chair Bates said his understanding of what Aqua Ventus wants out of this is: they first want to land the cable somewhere in Port Clyde, 10 Cold Storage Road is their favorite area. They need somewhere to terminate the cable, and that could be in a chamber that would be part of the pier supported dock. It would be underground so if there was any maintenance to be done, you would approach through a manhole cover in the concrete. There needs to be a transformer there and then somehow, they would then have to get the power and they are talking about burying it until it reached the existing pole line which runs through Port Clyde. As Selectperson Elwell said, this area is where they would have a monitoring station and the switch gear could be a mile or so away from where it comes ashore. Selectperson Hall said they are using a floating platform which is a novel feature.

Chair Bates said they mentioned how it would be a benefit to the nation, to the state; the town could get a survey that would give a better idea about the harbor and the implications. He said this is the start of negotiations.

Selectperson Hall said this project has come at us kind of fast and there is a desire to slow this down a bit. He said the Landsburg's flagged the key question. What is in it for us? There needs to be some significant benefit to the town to even consider this. There is homework that needs to be done. There is a responsibility to look at both sides of this and sort the pros and cons out.

Selectperson Hall said we have a lot to understand. One of the questions is, what is the impact visually, and otherwise, to 10 Cold Storage Road? What is the impact to the area where they are going to put the cable, put the windmills, etc.? He said I think we need to look at those pieces. He personally thought the impact at 10 Cold Storage Road and up through the village,

was not huge, but there was the larger question about the fishing area which he is very sensitive to. If you look at the poles that runs through Wiley's Corner and then at the poles that run down into Port Clyde village, he did not think you would see a lot of difference. Cushman said that was an opinion. Selectperson Hall asked to go look at the corner by True Hall's home near Rt. 73 turn off. Cushman said he had. Landsburg asked what the difference in the height of the poles was. The Select Board said 10 feet. Selectperson Elwell said he had talked with a CMP employee, who said when a pole is needed to be replaced, they now replace all poles at the 10' higher pole.

Landsburg said their other family members will ask what happened in the discussion. He just wanted to be clear. He said the 80' x 80' area, 16' tall, that entire area is all underground? The Select Board said no that is off, someplace else.

Selectperson Elwell explained: it is going to come into a bunker. Landsburg asked what size the bunker was. Chair Bates said 12' x 9'. Polky said it was like a big septic tank.

Landsburg asked if there was any sound associated with that. Selectperson Elwell said Aqua Ventus said no. Because it is new and it is gathering information, they wanted a large facility. The facility is a big building, somewhere, up to a mile away.

Cushman said when he was on the committee in 2009, the Aqua Ventus proposal was for 1,000 wind turbines. It may have been reduced to 800, but that was still 800. That is a lot of bottom. If you are making your living off it, you would be very concerned, just as I am.

Cushman said he will have friends with him at the upcoming meetings. He asked what the next step would be. Chair Bates said it would be fact finding. He will talk with MacDonald, and see if she could do a presentation. Cushman asked if that would be for the public and would it be at a Select Board meeting or at a special meeting? Chair Bates said he was not sure. Cushman asked how would he know what is going on? Polky said it will be on the town website. Chair Bates said if there are special presenters, they could do an email blast. Selectperson Hall said the discussions are just beginning.

On a motion by Selectperson Elwell, seconded by Selectperson Sawyer it was voted 5-0, to form a fact finding and data gathering subcommittee to include Polky, Schmanska, Hall and Bates, to work on the Aqua Ventus project to bring forth information to the Select Board and the public. The subcommittee will include talks with Noel Musson, the Select Board in Bristol, CMP, and the Island Institute.

OLD BUSINESS continued:

Town Meeting Warrant Article: Curtis met with the Budget committee last Thursday. The Budget Committee approved articles 2, 3, 18 and 19. Article 18 was the fund balance. Curtis said \$250,000 was appropriated for the current fiscal year, but she and Polky felt \$125,000 was a reasonable request for fiscal year 2017-18. On a motion by Selectperson Elwell and seconded by Selectperson Sawyer, it was voted 5-0, to approve Articles 2, 3, 18 and 19 in the town warrant.

- Select Board Policy Manual Updates: The Board met consensus to accept the Select Board Policy Manual changes to Items #12,13, 35 and 46. Select Board reviewed items 19, 20, 21 and 22. Under Item 19, Purchasing Procedures, remove the word “therefore”. Items 20-22 needed to be updated. Selectperson Hall will prepare a draft of revisions for pages 35-37 for next week's meeting. He will also have an updated review status sheet for Items 23-27, pages 38-45 for the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Liquor License Application for Dockside Seafood, LLC: On a motion by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Selectperson Elwell, it was voted 5-0, to approve the liquor license application for Dockside Seafood, LLC d/b/a the Dip Net Restaurant.

- Board and Committee Correspondence: Chair Bates discussed receiving and handling correspondence from the public. Polky discussed this with the town attorney, and they decided if the public wants to write to board or committee members, they should write to the individual person. Selectperson Elwell said it is not the responsibility of the Board Chairs or committee members to disperse correspondence to other board or committee members or to handout letters or literature at meetings. The information should be mailed out, handed out or given out to individuals by the person who is writing or has information to distribute. The public is encouraged to attend the Select Board or other meetings. The Select Board recognizes extenuating circumstances but is encouraging people to distribute their own correspondence, to each member, by mail, email, or at the meetings.

- School Generator: Selectperson Willey said she was asked at the last school board meeting whether there was a decision made about the generator or was it still being discussed? Selectperson Willey asked if this was something the town still wanted to do? Polky and the Select Board said yes. Selectperson Elwell said he had the electrician down to look over the situation at the school but had not heard back from him, so he had another electrician look it over. He asked him to get in touch with Polky who said he had not heard from him, yet. Selectperson Hall said this was the generator that would allow the town to use the school as a shelter. He suggested hooking up multiple meters, if, in the future, they would be considering installing solar power at the school. Selectperson Elwell said one question was do we hook up the whole school or part of the school? Selectperson Elwell said, as far as cost, Alley (electrician) told him, you would be better off to hook the whole school into the box. Selectperson Elwell said he did not think the whole school needed to be done. Polky said there may still be some grant money to help with the wiring. Selectperson Elwell will talk with Polky and try to reach the electrician to figure out what the cost of the generator work will be. Elwell will try to have updates on this, at the next meeting.

Polky said there are a lot of questions that need answers, if we install solar panels. Selectperson Hall thought if the school was going to go solar, they should have their own panels on and so should the transfer station, so there would not be a meter limitation. Chair Bates asked if this was something the town is going to vote on in May. Polky said no. Chair Bates said this would be good to have in place for the winter of 2017-18. There could be a special town meeting to see about appropriating the money.



At 8:50 p.m., on a motion made by Selectperson Sawyer, seconded by Selectperson Willey, it was voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite R. Wilson  
Select Board Recording Secretary

Reminders:

- Review of school budget by Mike Felton and Scott Vaitones, April 3