



Town of Casco
Selectboard Minutes
June 23, 2020

Selectboard Chair Tom Peaslee opened the meeting with the following announcement:

Due to the Governor's COVID-19 Stay at Home Directive, live public attendance will not be permitted at this meeting. The Selectboard will be live with social distancing and the public will be able to view the meeting live on Lake Region Television and the LRTV website.

The public may call in to the meeting via telephone by calling 627-4404 during the Public Participation section of the agenda or by emailing manager@cascomaine.org prior to 5:30 PM on 06/23/2020.

Selectboard Members Present:

Mary-Vienessa Fernandes, Holly Hancock (Vice Chair), Calvin Nutting, Tom Peaslee (Chair)

Staff Present:

Town Manager Courtney O'Donnell

Chair Tom Peaslee made an announcement that Grant Plummer resigned at the last Selectboard Meeting for those wondering why he was absent.

1. Review and Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Holly Hancock mentioned that the Drews were unable to attend for their appeal as there have been two deaths recently have been consumed with the funerals of these two individuals.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted to remove number 9 of the Agenda and approve the agenda minus number 9: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

2. Approval of Bills and Signing and Approval of All Open Warrants

The Selectboard moved (Fernandes), seconded (Nutting), and voted to approve bills and sign and approve all open warrants: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

3. Manager's Update (*Courtney O'Donnell*)

- A reminder that Route 121 is being paved by MDOT and also, CMP will be replacing poles on Rt. 121 and Mayberry Hill soon.
- Courtney O'Donnell has had some questions on the private roads. Because of COVID, the Selectboard voted at the last meeting to postpone bringing the winter maintenance of private roads policy to a later date. On the ballot that is in place of open Town Meeting this year, there will be a question to continue plowing all private roads that meet the 1972 standards. Thompson Lake Shores Road and Upper shore Drive have been added to the list of roads on the policy that need to meet the 1972 standards as they were inadvertently left out.
- Zoning Board of Appeals has openings. Volunteers needed for this board and anyone who may be interested is encouraged to reach out to the Town.
- A reminder that the election is being held July 14th at the Casco Community Center from 8-8. This election is for the State, Municipal and School. Absentee Ballots are available through the town office. The town meeting will be a referendum ballot on July 28th absentee ballots are available. However, if you have submitted an absentee ballot for the July 14th election, you will automatically receive one for the July 28th municipal ballot. Voting takes place at the Casco Community Center from 8-8.
- Memorial Field update: Courtney O'Donnell provided an update to the Selectboard that although we were going to rebid the walking trail work, due to issues with the site plan, it has been postponed. It appears the site plan for the project was based on an outdated survey that did not take into account a couple of utility poles nor the area of trees that had previously been clear cut. As a result, the site plan needs to be amended and therefore needs to go back through Planning Board. The only alternative would be to cut more trees and slightly alter the walking trail to make it as in compliance as possible which would not be a good long-term solution. The plan is to meet with abutters prior to going back before Planning Board. Once that is done, the walking trial will need to be re-bid. The deadline for the grant for this work was December, however, we have requested an extension.
- Courtney O'Donnell noted for the record that she had submitted her three-month notice of resignation to the Selectboard on June 16 and her last day would be Sept. 11, 2020.

4. Public Participation

Comments from the public via telephone: None.

Comments from the public via email:

Tuan Nguyen: “I understand that the town of Casco will be looking for a new town manager already. I am bummed as I liked how Courtney was handling business for the town. I felt things were in good hands with her. That said, I want to recommend putting together a hiring committee for the position. I think it’s important to get public comment on what the public wants in a manager. I fully recognize that at this time meetings are difficult things to pull off and that maybe written submissions for input might be the first step in this process. Submissions might be used by the select board to put together the hiring committee. But I think it is imperative that small a group, diverse in opinion and representative of key stakeholder groups, be set up to move through the process of finding a replacement for the capable, forward thinking manager that we are losing.”

James Gerry: “Though I appreciate the caution being taken with COVID-19 precautions. We (the public) need to be a loud to attend in person. There are ways to allow this to happen and would like to see this in place by next Selectboard meeting. Thank you.”

5. Town of Oxford Meeting Request Discussion: Possible Participation by Otisfield & TLEA

Otisfield Selectboard Member Hal Ferguson and Scott Barnardy of the Thompson Lake Environmental Association (TLEA) were in attendance to discuss a request made by Town of Oxford regarding the Thompson Lake Dam. There was extensive discussion about the dam, the committees, and what Otisfield and TLEA would like to see happen with the request that Casco Selectboard might agree. The Selectboard discussed attending with Tom Peaslee and Holly Hancock as representative and agreed they would prefer to have the meeting sooner rather than later and suggested the dates of July 23rd or July 30th.

6. Approval of Municipal Referendum Ballot for July 28th (in place of open Town Meeting)

The Selectboard reviewed the ballot. Holly Hancock brought it to Courtney’s attention that she thought PLPP did not need the \$4000.00 this year. Courtney said she will check on that and remove it if necessary.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted to approve Town Meeting Warrant with the correction of the donation’s article/question if necessary: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

A public hearing is required for the referendum ballot, notice must be in the newspaper seven days prior. Per the Governor's Executive Order, it can be held remotely or with a meeting not to exceed 50 people. The Selectboard liked the idea of an open meeting at the Central Fire Station to better accommodate attendees.

The Selectboard moved (Fernandes), seconded (Hancock), and voted to have a Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 8th as part of their regular Selectboard meeting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

7. Recreation Donation Acceptance: Point Sebago Cove Communities \$5,000

A Recreation Donation from Point Sebago Cove Communities in the amount of \$5,000.00 has been received for the purpose of a summer camp.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted to accept and expend the donation from Point Sebago: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

8. CMP Pole Permit

A pole Permit was received from Central Maine Power for Fountain Hill Road of Rt. 121.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted to approve the pole permit on Fountain Hill Road: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

9. Item removed from agenda

10. Tax Write Offs as Uncollectable Request

There are three tax write offs that need to be addressed. Three different properties – two owned by the Town at 661 Meadow Road and 9 Leach Hill Road, and one is a trailer in a campground. The trailer was removed and there are new people on the site with a different trailer, so it is impossible to track down the owners for the owed taxes. The first two are standards because if we rent the property, taxes still accrue. The property at 661 Meadow Rd has been updated to reflect it is no longer being rented or leases, so it will not come before the Board again and the second should've been written into the lease and is more about clean up than anything.

It was moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes) and voted to approve the write off of taxes at 661 Meadow Road: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

It was moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes) and voted to approve the write off of taxes at 9 Leach Hill Road: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

It was moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes) and voted to approve the write off of taxes at 4 Willow Way: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

11. Tenney Hill Waste Oil Fund Policy Discussion

This is a follow up discussion about funding received through the MDEP as a result of a Natural Resources Waste Oil Site Agreement for protecting drinking water. The Town has up to \$500,000 to spend in \$100,000 draw down increments. As noted at the last meeting, Grant Plummer had submitted a request to use these funds on his private septic system. The Selectboard wanted to review policies from other Towns; a couple were provided to the Selectboard prior to the meeting for review.

This was tabled for a future Selectboard meeting.

12. Public Participation

Comments from the public via telephone: None

Comments from the public via email: None

Robert Learnard wanted to know if the resignation of a Selectboard member needed to be public knowledge. Courtney pointed out that is was done after the executive session at the last Selectboard Meeting and that is why the Chair noted it for the record at the start of this meeting. It is available for viewing at the end of the Facebook Live stream for the meeting of June 9, 2020. He also wanted to know why Courtney was leaving. Courtney politely declined to comment.

13. Selectboard Comments

- Holly Hancock spoke again about the passing of longtime residents Bill Shane and Don Vaughn. Both had passed recently.

14. Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F) – Poverty Abatement 061020

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted to enter Executive Session 1 MRSA subsection 405(6)(F) for poverty abatement request: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted come out of Executive Session 1 MRSA subsection 405(6)(F) for poverty abatement request: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted to grant a poverty abatement pursuant to title 36 MRSA 841 (2) for case number 061020 in the amount of \$5,249.77 for FY 19 & 20: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

15. Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) – Personnel: Town Manager

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted to enter to Executive Session 1 MRSA subsection 405(6)(A) for Personnel: Town Manager: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted come out of Executive Session for personnel at 8:03 pm: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The Selectboard moved (Peaslee), seconded (Nutting), and voted to accept the resignation of the Town Manager effective September 11, 2020; 3 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions.

16. Adjournment

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes), and voted to adjourn at 8:05: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.