

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: July 22, 2025

Time: 6:00 pm

I. Call Meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum

The meeting was called to order, and a quorum was established by Select Board Chair, Joanne Joy, at 6:00 p.m. Select Board members participating were Joanne Joy, Jason Hodde, Allen Acker, Peter Feeney, and Nicole Briand, Town Manager; Mark Favreau was absent.

II. Amendments to the Agenda – None

III. Comments from the Public

Jim Marciano of Wilderness Lane let the Board know of the potential safety issue on Post Road near Crooked Creek Lane. He stated that there is a lot of brush blocking visibility on the blind curve. He is concerned because the school bus stops there and there is a potential a driver may not be able to see them and cause an accident.

Briand thanked him for making them aware of the issue and let those in attendance know that because Post Road is a state road that she would inform DOT.

IV. Approval of Consent Calendar

A. Meeting Minutes

1. July 8, 2025

B. Warrants & Financial Reports

1. Treasurer's Warrant #2

Acker moved the Board approve the Consent Calendar, as presented; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 4-0.

V. Action Items

A. Act on Maxwell Trust Funding

Per our court order, the Town is allowed to use the interest income earned in 2024 in the calendar year 2025 on cemetery improvements.

Acker move the Board approve using the \$13,927.54 of interest income for Ridge Cemetery stones and Village Cemetery Improvements; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

B. Act on Town Office Reserve Request – Tree Removal

There is a sugar maple tree behind the Town Office that is a safety hazard and needs to be removed. While there, Tidewater Tree Care could remove 11 small trees growing on the ledge knoll as well as a larger ash tree that will become safety issues in the future.

Feeney moved the Board approve expending up to \$1800, from the Town Office/Town Hall reserve for tree removal; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0.

C. Act on Waterfront Reserve Request – Maintenance

The Town Manager requested to use up to \$500 from the Waterfront Reserve for painting supplies to paint the “harbor master” building.

Acker moved the Board approve expending up to \$500 from the Waterfront Reserve for maintenance of the “harbormaster” building; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 4-0.

D. Act on Waterfront Project Change Order

The Town is in the final process of getting approval for the Land & Water Contract amendment. Change Order #4 is for all the proposed paving and related paving items.

The paving proposal included walkways inside the main park as well as the entrance and parking areas. The walkways were added because after heavy rains the reclaimed walkways were starting to erode. The Select Board had concerns with paving the walkways at this time. Feeney commented that staff have been very good at finding grant money for projects but that they should also look at what the life cycle cost of upkeep and maintenance will be. Acker was concerned that the paths were not prepared sufficiently to be paved and would need to be redone. They concluded that they would pave the road and parking areas and revisit the walkways at another time.

Feeney moved the Board approve Change Order #4 for the LWCF 23-00909-Bowdoinham Waterfront Park for paving the park roadway and parking areas; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 4-0.

E. Act on Pole Permit

Acker moved the Board approve the Location Permit for Work Order #801000690398, Notification #10104090506, as presented; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Citizen of the Year

Acker moved the Board move Discussion item A. Citizen of the Year to the end of the discussion items; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

B. Carding Machine Road – Speed Table Request

The Board discussed a request that they received at the June 24th meeting, for the placement of speed tables on Carding Machine Road between Dinsmore Cross Road and River Road. Joy noted that there appears to be several areas in town where speeding has become an issue.

Several members of the community addressed the Select Board on this issue.

- Robin Beltramini commented that since Carding Machine Road was paved, they have seen an increase in traffic. She informed the Board that speed signs were at both ends of the road but not where people come off Dinsmore Cross Road.
- Fred Cheney expressed that he was not for spending money on speed bumps that the Board should look at other options.
- Calie Ramisch thanked the Board for considering speed tables and that she felt they were the most sustainable solution.
- Kevin Doyle expressed his concerns that if the Town did install speed tables on Carding Machine it might drive commuters to White Road and that they have a problem with speeding also.

Briand suggested to the Board other options such as lighted speed signs, additional signage, or tubular markers. Feeney suggested that the Town try a progressive approach before installing speed tables. Acker stated that the Town owns a speed sign that records speed, he felt that putting this on Carding Machine Road would be a good first step.

The Board asked Briand to ask Public Works how soon they could get new speed limit signs to install at Dinsmore Cross Rd. intersection on Carding Machine as well as putting out the speed sign they have. Acker asked if Briand could also ask Sagadahoc Sheriffs if they could patrol the road more often.

C. Pratt Road – Maintenance of Discontinued Section

While researching status of the end of Dingley Road, town officials learned they were maintaining a section of Pratt Road that had been discontinued. Per guidance from Maine Municipal's Legal Department, Article 32 was added to the June Town Meeting warrant. *"Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to conduct winter maintenance on a 0.19-mile section of Pratt Road (formally Dingley Road) that was previously discontinued?"* This article did not pass.

Paul Austin and Eric McKinnon contacted the Town Manager and requested that the Board reconsider this decision.

Paul Austin thanked Nicole Briand and Tobey Frizzle for taking time to meet with him at the end of Pratt Road. He expounded to the Board on the history of this end of Pratt Road. He stated that when the log cabins on Wilderness Lane were to be built there were three conditions given, one of which was part of Pratt Rd, which needed to be brought up to code. Work was done to widen, put in a culvert and a turn around on his property for the Town trucks to use. Since that time, the Town has maintained the .19-mile section of road. He was unaware that the Town was no longer maintaining this section of road until he stopped at the Town Office and asked why they only graded the road to a certain point.

Acker and Feeney explained that it was not the Select Board that made the decision to stop maintenance, it was a town vote. They cannot reverse what the Town voted on.

Kelly Weaver told the Board she was confused. She referred to a letter from previous Town Manager William Post stating that a Town could improve some or all a discontinued or abandoned road without changing its status and that he and the Select Board Chair at the time decided to maintain the .19 mile of Pratt Road. She wanted to know why after 11 years it became a concern. She was also upset that none of the residents affected by this vote were notified that this was going on the June Town warrant or after that they were no longer going to have their section of road maintained. She understood it was voted on, she felt they should have been notified before now especially since they must arrange for maintenance and plowing.

Briand apologized to the property owners that they were not notified. She stated that she was in the process of writing a letter of notification but was waiting for this discussion to finalize it. She asked the Board if they would consider putting the question on the warrant again next year.

Joy explained that where it was a Town vote it needed the Town to vote on it to reverse the decision. She stated they could put the question on the November ballot or wait until June Town Meeting. Joy asked the residents who were present which they preferred.

Jim Marciano told the Board that he lives on Wilderness Lane, but he supports the residents of Pratt Road on this matter. He thanked the Board for considering putting it on the November ballot. He felt these people should have been given an opportunity to speak before it was voted on.

Joy told the residents that they needed to do better communication in these situations and that the Town was not legally required to notify them of the Town Meeting Warrant, but they should have. She said they would look at ways to do better in the future.

Rebecca Connley asked about the discontinuance status and what the next steps were. Joy answered that it was discontinued with a public easement and that they could put the question on the ballot for the Town to vote on.

Readopting the road was mentioned. Briand said if the Town wanted to do that it was a bigger process that would have to be started now to be on the June warrant. But for now, they could ask the town to continue maintenance.

Acker suggested asking the voters if the Town could do winter for one year to get the residence taken care of this winter and then move forward at the June Town Meeting.

Acker moved the Board approve to put a warrant question on the November ballot "Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to conduct winter maintenance for winter 25-26 on a .19-mile section of Pratt Road that was previously discontinued?"; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

A. Citizen of the Year

The Board reviewed the nominations for Citizen of the Year. Because the recipient of this award is not revealed until Celebrate Bowdoinham nominees are referenced by assigned number.

Feeny moved the Board approve nominee #2 for Citizen of the Year; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0.

VII. Town Manager's Report

- Nomination papers for November 4th's Municipal Election will be available on Friday, July 25th for one School Board member and two Select Board members; papers are due September 4th.
- Property Taxes- 30-Day Notices have been mailed, and liens will be recorded on August 22nd.
- There was vandalism at both the recreation fields and waterfront restrooms, and all suspects have been identified. The individuals responsible for the vandalism at the recreation fields have paid for the damage directly. In the case of the waterfront restrooms, we are in the process of obtaining estimates for the replacement door and locks. Once we know the costs we will be in touch with the individual responsible and Sheriff's Office to address payment.
- The recreation department is working on a fundraising project for a new solar-powered electronic scoreboard for Middle Field. The goal is to raise \$10,000 to complete the project in time for the 2026 baseball season!
- The Town has been working with Maine Solar Solutions and the Attorney to draft the solar contract to have the contract ready for the Board's review and approval in August.

- Riverview (Yellow) House Mitigation Assessment & Design Proposals are due by 1pm on July 29th.
- The Town is waiting an updated schedule for the installation of the flooring.
- Town Hall interior has been cleaned and is being painted. Flooring is scheduled to be installed in the first week of August. New wiring has been installed; the new lighting fixtures will be installed after the interior is painted.
- Bedard Excavation has made a lot of progress at the waterfront. The Town received an installation date from CMP and is waiting for streetlights so the electrical work can be completed. The paddle put in for kayak/canoers in open, however, the park remains closed to allow the landscaping time to grow. Once the construction is complete plans will be made for the full park to open.
- We are working to get an estimate to address the sidewalk retaining wall on Center Street.
- The Waterfront Restrooms are open, and the new hours are 6 am to 8 pm to accommodate boaters and summer events.

VIII. **Announce Future Select Board Meetings**

- August 5, 2025, at 6:00 pm – Regular Meeting
- August 26, 2025, at 6:00 pm - Regular Meeting

IX. **Comments from the Select Board Members**

Joy asked the Town Manager if the Town had a policy on notification of residents on items that are on the warrant that would impact them, such as road closing. Briand said there currently is no policy. Joy said they should investigate and make sure in the future that the Town communicates with residents in this situation.

Acker said that Ms. Weaver brought up a point that brings up a legal question. William Post and the Select Board Chair appear to have decided to maintain the discontinued section of Pratt Road without authorization of a Town Vote. Did they have a legal right to do so?

Hodde asked if after the communication at the last meeting on speed tables he wondered if the Town has or needs to have a policy on how to process requests for traffic measures on roads. Briand said she would investigate what processes other towns have.

X. **Comments from the Public - None**

XI. **Executive Session**

- Convene in executive session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(E), to consult with the Legal Counsel regarding the legal rights and duties of the Board.

Convened 8:16 pm. Adjourned 8:27 pm.

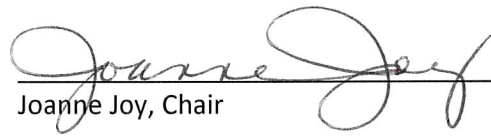
Feeney moved the Board enter Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6) (A) to discuss Town Manager Review; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0.

Feeney moved the Board leave executive session; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0. No action was taken.

I. **Adjourn**

Adjournment was at 8:27 p.m.

Select Board
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine



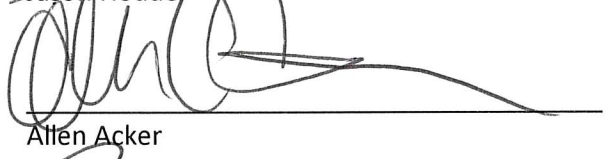
Joanne Joy, Chair



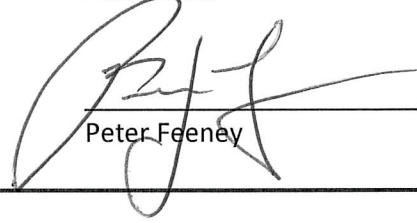
Mark Favreau, Vice Chair



Jason Hodde



Allen Acker



Peter Feeney

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant