

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: October 24, 2023

Time: 6:30 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, Peter Lewis, at 6:30 p.m. Select Board members participating were Peter Lewis, Mark Favreau, Deb Smith, Allen Acker, Peter Feeney and Nicole Briand, Town Manager.

II. **Amendments to the Agenda - None**

III. **Comments from the Public**

The two candidates for the School Board; Andrew Begin and Craig Caffrey introduced themselves to the Board and stated their experience and reasons why they would like to serve for Bowdoinham on the School Board. Jeremy Cluchey stood up and gave his recommendation of Andrew Begin.

IV. **Approval of Consent Calendar**

A. Meeting Minutes

1. October 10, 2023

B. Warrants & Financial Reports

1. Treasurer's Warrant #8

C. Reports and Communications

1. North East Mobile Health Services' September Report

Favreau moved the Board approve the Consent Calendar, as presented; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.

V. **Action Items**

A. Act on School Board Appointment

Favreau move the Board appoint Andrew Begin to the M.S.A.D #75 School Board for a term of October 24, 2023, to November 5, 2024; seconded by Smith. Vote was 4-1.

Lewis opposed.

B. Act on Recycling & Solid Waste Facility Location

Lewis moved the Board to cease investigations into the Recycling Barn and proceed with keeping the Town's Solid Waste and Recycling Program at Pond Road; seconded by Acker. Vote was 5-0.

C. Act on Small Community Grant Acceptance

The Small Community Grant Program provides grants to municipalities to help landowners replace malfunctioning septic systems that are polluting a waterbody or causing a public nuisance. Darren Carey applied for and had been awarded a Small Community Grant for Tammy Veno in 2021. The State has now approved a funding 100% of the project, which will be greater than the \$10,000 the Board accepted in 2021.

Favreau moved the Board accept the revised 2021 Small Community Grant award for 724 Post Road and authorize the Town Manager to sign the grant contract; seconded by Smith. Vote was 4-0. Acker abstained.

D. Act on Cemetery Reserve Request

We are requesting up to \$1,500 from the cemetery reserve for the stone repairs (\$1,000 estimated) at various cemeteries and fencing (\$500 estimated) for the Whitemore Cemetery on River Road.

Favreau moved the Board approve up to \$1,500 from the cemetery reserve for stone repairs and fencing; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.

E. Act on Tax Abatements

Favreau moved the Board approve the Certificate of Abatement for FY24 Property Tax Abatement #9 in the amount of \$1384.50, as presented; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.

Favreau moved the Board approve the Certificate of Abatement for FY24 Property Tax Abatement #10 in the amount of \$1649.70, as presented; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.

Favreau moved the Board approve the Certificate of Abatement for FY24 Property Tax Abatement #11 in the amount of \$187.18, as presented; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.

F. Act on Tax Supplements

Favreau moved the Board approve FY2024 Supplemental Assessment # 2 for in the amount of \$2784.59, as presented; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.

Favreau moved the Board approve FY2024 Supplemental Assessment # 3 for in the amount of \$187.80, as presented; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.

G. Act on Village Partnership Grant Application

The Community Development Advisory Committee is requesting to apply for a Village Partnership Planning Grant to design and publicly vet permanent solutions to address pedestrian safety cross River Road

Favreau moved the Board support applying for a Village Partnership Planning Grant, as proposed; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Celebrate Bowdoinham Report

Acker commented that everyone did a great job, the other members of the Board agreed.

B. June Town Meeting Date

Acker proposed that they look at possibly changing the June Town Meeting from on a Wednesday night to a Saturday. He said he had spoken to Bowdoin, who has their Town Meeting on a Saturday and that they felt they had better attendance. He also stated that he had heard of some residents who would like to try this option.

Acker also suggested they have the meeting earlier in the year, possibly April or May. He understood this would shorten the Budget cycle and everything would have less time to be put together.

Briand that there could be additional charges to having the meeting on a weekend compared to a weekday, such as the school janitor and overtime for staff. She said if they wanted to try it she suggested the first Saturday in June.

Acker suggested the second Saturday in May which would move the budget cycle up a month.

Feeney added that he liked the meeting held outside in tents.

Briand added that the tents added a lot of additional expense and that there were a lot of complaints by residents who found access to the tents difficult.

Feeney offered another option of starting the Wednesday night meeting earlier, perhaps it would increase participation.

Lewis suggested they table the discussion to continue later and that they should have a public hearing on the matter to find out what the residents' opinion on the matter.

Jason Lamoreau added that they consider it is a Comprehensive Plan year which requires some extra time that would make a May meeting difficult.

Briand said she would add a Public Hearing and additional discussion on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.

C. 529 Bay Road

Marie Flaherty addresses the Board about the setback violation on 529 Bay Road. She stated that she is part of the Flaherty Group representing property owner. She added that the owner and buyers have been attempting to work out the three-foot setback violation with the lender with no avail. She was requesting that the Board change their judgement and issue a 'No Action' letter.

Favreau answered that the Board had already voted on this matter and the CEO sent a letter as to what we needed as a Town to have done. Neither the seller nor buyers have taken any action to meet the requirements. They do not want to put \$2500 in an escrow account or to take the actions we've given them as options.

Acker debated with the Board over their previous decision to require the seller and buyers to comply with the setback violation. He argued that the Board had the power to make decisions on a case by case basis and should not be afraid that to do so would set a precedence for the next circumstance that arise. Then Acker made a motion.

Feeney spoke up and asked the Chair to acknowledge Ackers motion.

Acker moved the Board issue a consent agreement to the owners at 529 Bay Road to let them buy the house; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 3-2.

(Acker, Feeney & Smith for. Lewis & Favreau opposed)

VII. **Town Manager's Report**

The first half of FY2024's tax payment is due November 1st.

Elections are scheduled for November 7, 2023, and absentee ballots are now available.

Dog licenses are due by January 31st.

We've advertised for: the harbor master position (due 11/3), trash hauling services (due 11/9) and audit services (due 11/22). We're preparing for our upcoming FY23 Financial Audit and MEMIC audit.

November Holiday Schedule

- Town Office:
 - Friday, November 10th - closed
 - Wednesday, November 22nd – Open- 8am-12pm and Closed 12-6pm (*this is not a paid holiday*)
 - Thursday, November 23rd - closed
 - Friday, November 24th - closed
- Solid Waste & Recycling
 - Thursday, November 23rd – Closed & Trash Pick-up will be on Saturday (11/25)
 -

We've completed the purchase of our streetlights from CMP. I met with CMP on Friday and have their pre-approval. We'll be finalizing the final project scope and getting the contractor scheduled this week.

The heat pump installation was completed on October 19th and 20th.

Public Works is working to complete the first phase of the Village Cemetery drainage project.

Navigational aids have been removed and docks will be removed this week.

Bedard Excavation has a couple of punch list items to complete this phase of construction, based on our final inspection this afternoon.

VIII. **Announce Future Select Board Meetings**

A. November 14, 2023 – Regular Meeting

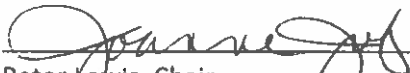
B. November 28, 2023 – Regular Meeting

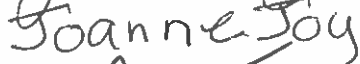

IX. **Select Board Member's Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
More discussion and Public Hearing on changing day or time of Annual June Town Meeting

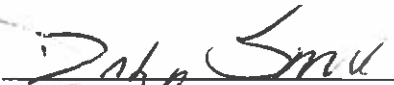
X. **Comments from the Select Board Members**
Select Board members thanked Peter Lewis for his years as a Selectman and his service to the Town.

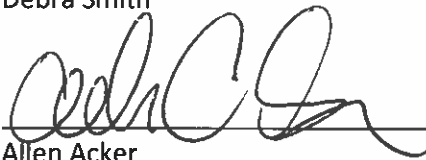
XI. **Adjourn**
Adjournment was at 7:32 p.m.

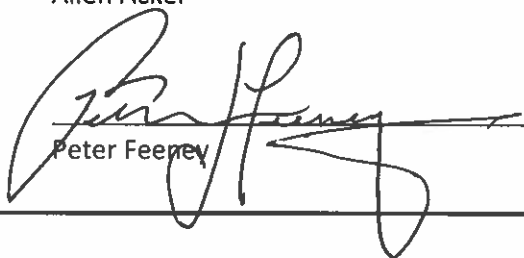
Select Board
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine


Peter Lewis, Chair



Mark Favreau, Vice-Chair


Debra Smith


Allen Acker


Peter Feerey

Respectfully Submitted,


Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant