



**Selectmen's Meeting
MINUTES
Bristol Town Office, October 7th, 2020**

Selectmen Present: Chad Hanna, Kristine Poland, Paul Yates

Also Present: Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Paul Leeman, Jr. (Fire Chief); Lara Sargent (Parks and Recreation Director); Deb Wilson and Mark Becker (Becker Construction); Jay Crooker and Rick Poland (Fish Committee); Candy Congdon (Lincoln County News); Jim Levis, Mark Boudreau, Tom Marais, Mary Piasecki, Mary Anne Moisan, and Margaret Hayter (Pemaquid Beach petitioners); Pat Porter.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Chad Hanna, at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Yates, seconded by Poland, to accept the Minutes of the meeting of September 16th as presented. Motion passed, 3 – 0. It was then moved by Poland, seconded by Yates, to accept the Minutes of the meeting of September 30th as presented. Motion passed, 3 – 0.

PETITION:

Jim Levis, of Huddle Road, Pemaquid Beach, presented a petition signed by 45 residents and property owners of the Pemaquid Beach village area, requesting reduced speed limits, paved shoulders, and other traffic safety measures for pedestrians and other road users in that village.

Levis presented data gathered from a range of sources, including traffic speed records from a Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) speed feedback sign; the uptick in numbers of children enrolled in Bristol Consolidated School; rising house sales; and increased visitors at the Beach Park. He also reported the intent of the State Park to upgrade the boat launch in 2022, including the addition of a 110-foot dock/float. All of these, he argued, suggest growing conflicts between rising numbers of pedestrians, bicyclists and other road users.

Recognizing that Huddle and Snowball Hill Roads are state owned and maintained, he asked for the Board's support in asking the DoT to (i) reduce speed limits; (ii) increase signage, including a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Huddle and Snowball Hill; (iii) shoulders and/or sidewalks especially on the Huddle Road stretch approaching the Snowball Hill intersection where sight lines are obscured by the hill crest; (iv) permanent speed monitoring/feedback signs; and (v) greater enforcement by LCSO.

Other residents added their concerns, including a number of reports of 'near misses' and the fear of walking in their neighborhood in the summer season, and including a request

from Moisan for increased DoT roadside brush cutting. Yates added that Huddle Road is too dangerous for him to run on in summer.

Hanna, for the Board, indicated his support for inviting the DoT District Engineer and/or other staff to meet with the residents, and that he as Road Commissioner would attempt to join that meeting. Hall was asked to try to schedule this, either at a future Board meeting or as a daytime meeting at Pemaquid Beach.

Levis indicated that most if not all of the property owners on the western end of Huddle Road had expressed willingness to grant rights of way for shoulders and/or sidewalks in front of their homes. In discussion, it was suggested that this could be funded by a mix of state and Town funds, grants and donations. Levis was asked to confirm the several parties' interest in writing, and once DoT have indicated their parameters for such a widening of the right-of-way Hall believed a preliminary engineering study could be funded from the Town's Roads budget as a basis for future fundraising.

In further discussion, while it might appear that the Town could post Town roads such as Pemaquid Beach Loop with speed signs such as the 10 mph limit requested by the petitioners, Hanna stressed that such limits are not legally enforceable unless the DoT has signed off on them following a formal study. This, too, would be discussed with the District Engineer.

Finally with regard to LCSO policing, this could be discussed with the Sheriff but Hall noted the unlikelihood that the Town would want to get into the business of hiring deputies, seasonal or otherwise.

Hanna thanked the residents for their concern and research, and indicated that the Board will revisit to this once more information is gathered from DoT and LCSO.

Old Business:

Bristol Mills Fish Ladder: Mark Becker and Deb Wilson, of general contractors Becker Construction, gave a monthly update on progress at the fish ladder. They are optimistic that the stone masonry will be completed on schedule by year-end, and to budget. Additional donations of rocks have been received and continue to be offered, with support from Rick Poland and the Fish Committee. There are no conflicts with the work being done by Knowles Industrial on the upstream face of the dam.

Fireworks Ordinance: Chief Leeman deferred to Yates, who circulated a memo outlining suggestions for an Ordinance. Key points, with which the Chief agreed, are that ultimate control should lie in Bristol, not the state Fire Marshal for example, as conditions here may be different from those in the wider region. Permits could be issued either by the Fire Chief (as at present for burn permits) or by the Board (as at present Special Entertainment Permits are approved). In either case, a distinction should be made between fireworks which are hand held or ground based, such as sparklers and cherry

bombs, and those which are launched through the air – the latter being the main concern both from a safety and a noise nuisance standpoint.

After discussion, in which there appeared to be Board support for bringing an Ordinance to the 2021 Town meeting, Leeman agreed to bring back wording in November that would incorporate Yates' ideas.

Public Hearing on Solar Array: the developer of the proposed solar array on Christian Hill Road had suggested holding the required Public Hearing on at the Board meeting on November 4th. Poland pointed out that that evening would likely follow a long night of ballot counting from the election, and it was agreed that the date of November 18th would be offered instead.

Comprehensive Plan: Hall circulated reports from the 2001-2004 Comprehensive Plan Committee for review ahead of the forthcoming discussion with the Planning Board set for the Select Board's October 21 meeting.

Regular Business:

Building permits: Selectmen reviewed and signed Building Permits for properties at Map 003, lot 030-A; Map 004C, lot 024-A; Map 007 lot 006; and Map 008, lot 023.

Nine Months' financials: The Board reviewed the September cash flow and check reconciliation, and the year to date financials for the Parks, Town and Fire Department. It appears that Parks will not have to utilize the line of credit authorized by the Town Meeting, as their cash reserves exceed the \$160,000 level required to get through the winter.

Warrants – Selectmen reviewed and signed Warrants for payroll and accounts payable for the Town Office, Fire and Rescue, Parks and Recreation, Bristol Consolidated School, and the Bristol–South Bristol Transfer Station.

In Correspondence, Hall reported a request form a Round Pond property owner to borrow tables from the Town Office for a yard sale. The tables are currently being used for early voting, but Pat Porter from the floor suggested the loan of tables from the Learning Center at the Lighthouse Park. Hall will discuss this with Sargent.

There were no Public Comments.

Public Meetings: The Chair gave notice of forthcoming meetings as follows:

- Planning Board, Thursday, October 15th, 6 pm at the Town Office
- Parks and Recreation Commission, Tuesday, October 20th, at 6 pm at the Ellingwood Information Center
- Board of Selectmen, Wednesday, October 21st, 7 pm at the Town Office
- Harbor Committee, Thursday, October 22nd, 5 pm at the Town Office

The Chair noted that the Town Office will be closed in observance of the Public Holiday on October 12th.

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved to adjourn at 8.37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hall, Town Administrator