



Selectmen's Meeting MINUTES

Bristol Town Office, January 19th, 2022

Selectmen Present: Chad Hanna, Kristine Poland, Paul Yates.

Also present: Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Clyde Pendleton (Chair), Laurie Mahan and Sandra Lane (Parks and Recreation Commissioners); Richard Francis and Jessica Yates (co-chairs, Comprehensive Plan Committee); Alison Lee and Rick Poland (Fish Committee); Rob Davidson; Lara Decker; Pat Porter

6.30 pm: Public Hearing

Chair Hanna called the Board to order at 6.32 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair opened the advertised Public Hearing on the application for a new liquor license for off-premises sales of wines and malt beverages by Kalm LLC, the new owners of the former Dee's Variety, doing business as Harbor Light Convenience.

There being no public comments, the Chair closed the hearing at 6.34 pm, and adjourned pending the arrival of representatives of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Regular Selectmen's Meeting

The Chair called the meeting back to order at 6.55 pm and invited the co-Chairs of the Comprehensive Plan Committee to give an update on the Committee's work.

Jessica Yates began with an outline of the recent decisions to alter the planned outreach program, in the light of circumstances including Covid and cold weather making in-person contact more difficult at present. Outreach is now planned in two phases. Before the March Town Meeting, there will be a campaign to inform people about the meaning and the uses of a Comprehensive Plan, involving printed postcards and posters, the online website and digital survey, social media and print editorials. Input from this will inform the Committee's presentation at Town Meeting. If the Town Meeting re-authorizes the work of the Committee, a second phase (in warmer weather) will include canvassing opinions at gathering spots such as the library, town office, school and grocery stores; and more detailed questionnaires.

There was discussion about the difficulties experienced on the Committee's Zoom call on January 13th, which showed the limitations of the format when some people trying to dominate the discussion and others are reluctant to speak. An unexpected motion to shut off debate had required the use of Roberts Rules of Order, not generally understood by many if not most participants. Poland expressed concern that some may feel the use of parliamentary rules is a way to exclude or silence them. Yates confirmed that the co-Chairs feel their job is to encourage collegial conversation, and Francis reported that

following private conversations with members he hoped that the problem will not recur. However the Zoom host may have to exercise greater control over the microphone to prevent abuses.

Parks and Recreation budget: Clyde Pendleton, for the Commission, walked the Board through the proposed 2022 Parks budget. In the light of a financially successful 2021 season, and little in the way of forecast capital expenditure, the budget was welcomed.

From the floor Davidson asked if a liquor license is being sought for the Beach Park, which would not be permitted under the covenants with the deed of the land to the Town from the Pemaquid Beach Land Company.

Pendleton explained that no such license is being sought, but the Commissioners are considering whether to permit licensed caterers to serve alcohol at function such as weddings on the basis of open bar, rather than cash bar – i.e. no retail sales. Davidson felt that even this would be a violation of the covenant. Town Administrator reported that a legal opinion had been sought from attorney Hylie West, who felt that the Maine High Court's rulings barring perpetual covenants in excess of 30 years would apply. In addition, as the Pemaquid Beach Land Company had been wound up, there appeared to no party with standing to enforce any deed restriction or to whom the land could revert. Hall hoped that Mr. West will forward a written opinion soon.

Alison Lee asked if there is a rule covering the retail sale of alcohol on any town property. Hanna felt there would have to be a vote of Town meeting to authorize it.

Laurie Mahan noted that as responsible stewards of the town's park assets, the Commissioners are always looking for ways to enhance the business. P. Yates observed that the Select Board would always have to have the final say, subject to votes of Town Meeting.

Pendleton then circulated a Job Description for the Parks Director which included certain highlighted small changes from that approved in September 2021 with input from KMA Consulting. Poland moved, seconded by Yates, that this Job Description be approved. Motion passed, 3–0, and Pendleton reported that with this, the vacant position of Parks and Recreation Director would now be advertised with a view to hiring a replacement for Lara Decker by the start of the summer season.

From the floor, members of the Fish Committee asked to speak on the subject of the Bristol Mills Swimming Hole Park, and specifically the footbridge needed across the upstream entrance to the new fish ladder. Lee and R. Poland suggested consideration of a quotation they had solicited from Sprague Metal Fabrication, for a bridge of similar design to that put in place across the dam, though narrower (two feet instead of four) and with a serrated grating floor designed to deter barefoot swimmers from using the bridge. The quote was for \$31,618.71. The Fish Committee wished to have a continuous aesthetic for design at the dam, and wished the two bridges to look similar.

Hall noted that the Town already had an offer from the Coastal Rivers land trust to construct a wooden bridge, using volunteer labor, for a cost of materials to the Town in the region of \$3,000. Two such bridges have been built at the Bristol Recreational Trail in 2021, and the chair of the Fish Committee, Jay Crooker, had been put in contact with the Coastal Rivers trail stewards to discuss such a bridge for the fish ladder.

Lee asked if the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant of \$194,614 would cover the cost of the bridge. Hall believed that it could be applied, but would require a 50% match by the Town or other donors. Furthermore, as federal money, he expected it would be required that any construction be ADA-compliant. R. Poland said this would not be possible, due to the steps and the narrow width of the bridge. The matter was tabled for future consideration after researching the grant conditions.

Fire Budget: the Fire Chief was regrettably absent on a call. The Chair tabled consideration of the Fire and Rescue budget to Wednesday, January 26th.

Other Warrant questions: The Board agreed to place the suggested Article asking the Town to accept the gift of real property (the McKinley School building) from the Old Bristol Historical Society.

After some discussion, the Board agreed not to place on the Warrant an Article authorizing the sale by sealed bid of a town-owned woodlot at Map 7, lot 105. The sale had been requested by abutters of the property. The Chair felt that development in that remote area of town, at present a valuable wildlife corridor, was not in the best interests of the Town.

Poland asked that each proposed use of ARPA grant funds be clearly shown on the Warrant, with Budget Committee recommendation as appropriate, in addition to the authorizing Article for receipt and expenditure of grants.

There was brief discussion of other budget items for the Warrant, including noting that a proposed Transfer Station budget had now been approved by its Board including a \$50,000 increase over 2021, reflecting the increased costs of recycling and transportation.

New Business:

Renewal of liquor license: Bradley Inn. The Bradley Inn requested the annual renewal of their license and also an extension of premises covering part of their garden area. Yates questioned whether the extension of premises should be for an indefinite time or limited to specific dates, as had been the past practice for extensions at (for example) the Anchor Restaurant or the 1812 Farm. Hanna asked the Town Administrator to clarify this, the moved that the renewal be approved separately from the extension of premises. The motion was seconded by Poland and passed, 3 – 0.

The Chair then took up the liquor license application for Harbor Light Convenience, the subject of the earlier Public Hearing. He noted that the application was complete except for the signature page for completion by the Town. He moved that the Board approve the application, and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the application as approved on behalf of the Board, once a signature page was supplied by the applicants. The motion was seconded by Poland and passed, 3 – 0.

The Board reviewed a Tree Growth Application for transfer of ownership, but continuation of the presently-approved management plan, for Map 008, lot 087. It was moved by Poland, seconded by Yates, to approve the application. The motion passed, 3 – 0, and the Board signed the application in their capacity as Assessors.

Regular Business:

Poland, seconded by Yates, moved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 5th be accepted as presented. Motion passed, 3 – 0.

The Board reviewed and signed building permits for Map 010, lot 043-2-A and Map 013, lot 001.

The Board reviewed and signed Warrants for Payroll and Accounts Payable for the Town, Fire and Rescue Department, Parks Department, and the Bristol-South Bristol Transfer Station.

The Town Administrator reported no Correspondence.

There were no Public Comments

The Chair gave Notice of forthcoming meetings:

- Harbor Committee, Thursday, January 20th, 5 pm at the Bristol Town Office
- Select Board, Wednesday, January 26th, 2022, 6.30 pm at the Town Office
- Comprehensive Plan Committee: Thursday, January 27th, 7.00 pm by Zoom. To receive a Zoom access code, notify the Town Office by 4.00 pm on January 27th.
- Parks and Recreation Commission, Tuesday, February 1st, 6.00 pm at the Ellingwood Information Center
- School Board – the Select Board are invited for a joint meeting to discuss the school budget: Wednesday, February 2nd, 5.30 pm at Bristol Consolidated School, to be followed by:
- Select Board, Wednesday February 2nd, following the meeting of the School Board, at the Bristol Consolidated School.
- Budget Committee hearings:
 - Town and Fire & Rescue budgets: Monday, Feb. 7th, 7 pm at the Town Office.
 - School and Parks Budgets, Tuesday, Feb. 8th, 7 pm at the Town Office.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 8.34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hall
Town Administrator