

Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 4 pm at the Calais Town Garage

Present: Denise Wheeler (Chair), Clif Emmons (Member), Jerome Lipani, Katie Lane-Karnas, Reed Cherrington, Noreen Bryan, Anne Winchester, Tina Bielenberg, Jane English, Alfred Larrabee, Jake Earle, Bruce Campbell, Paul Stecker, Toby Talbot, Judy Robert, Rodney Buck, Cindy Gardner-Morse, Wilson Hughes, David Ellenbogen, Gaelin Whittaker, Larry Bush, Julie Hand, Stephanie Kaplan, Barbara Butler, Sandra Ferver, Donna Fitch, Jim Barlow, Nick Emlen, Olivia Gay, Fletcher Dean, John Simanskis, Jennifer Whitman, Juanita Nunn, Dot Naylor, Lynne Woodard, Dillon Burns, Rick Kehne, Heidi Thompson, Lewis Franco, Mack Gardner-Morse, Katie Reed, Rose Pelchuck (Member), Aaron Wheeler, Roger Wheeler, Polly Wheeler

1. Call to Order: Denise Wheeler called the meeting to order at 4:28 pm, welcoming town volunteers and employees. The Town Garage had been set up and decorated for the Appreciation Dinner.
2. Public Comment: None.
3. Review, Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.
4. Open Meeting Law Refresher: Town Attorney Jim Barlow gave a presentation of open meeting law, beginning with what defines a “meeting” and the three types: regular, special, and emergency. He discussed requirements of town committees for posting notices and agendas, adding an addition to the agenda, requirements for minutes, appropriate use of email communication, and attending by phone. He covered acceptable reasons for executive session and clarified managing conflict of interest.

The group enjoyed Town of Calais trivia during buffet dinner and admired the Town Garage and new hydroseeder.

5. Board/Commission Updates:
 - Planning Commission: John McCullough shared the Commission’s process on changes to the zoning regulations (all of which are related to water). Ultimately the changes will be reviewed by a public hearing and by the Selectboard.
 - Town Hall Renovation Committee: John McCullough shared a positive update on Ernie Parrish (Calais resident, Design Advisory Board member, and Green Line Builders) who is the lead builder on the Town Hall renovation, following his recent health crisis.
 - Conservation Commission: Stephanie Kaplan gave an overview of the Ash Tree Inventory that the Commission is completing to identify all ash trees on roadsides. She described the app that is being used for this process, and explained how the resulting

data will inform the Commission's creation of a plan for Calais, including where to plant new trees in places that the canopy is significantly impacted by ash trees dying.

- Cemetery Commission: John Simanskis and Jennifer Whitman reported that the Commission is nearing completion of washing all of the stones in Calais (begun a few years ago). This year, the Commission put maintenance work out to bid, and divided the work into two positions: Maintenance Contractor and Cemetery Sexton. Additionally, the Poplar Hill Cemetery Association in North Calais is in the process of dissolving, and the Town of Calais is going to be acquiring it. Regular summer maintenance and upkeep are in full force; the Commission is going to be working on "green burial" guidelines for Calais.
- Highway Department: The Road Commissioner reported that the sand pile is being refilled, and summer projects and grant work are underway.
- Act 46: Dot Naylor, CES School Board member and merged School Board member, stated that although she attended the final CES public meeting and the last "carousel" meeting of the five towns' schools and U-32, she is hoping that the court case will be decided in favor of continuing to operate as five separate town schools. She described a bank request for each of the newly merged board's members to sign accepting the debt of the other towns; attorney David Kelly will be asked to attend the next meeting to support members refusing to sign to place debt upon the citizens without them voting on it. She also shared that the new superintendent, Deborah Taylor, begins a one-year position on July 15 and is traveling daily from her home in the Rutland area.
- Town Clerk: Judy Robert reminded the group that the next election is on June 25 and early voting is in process.

6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

Date: 6/13/2019 Respectfully Submitted, Katie Lane-Karnas, Recording Secretary
Approved by the Selectboard at the 6/24/2019 meeting