MINUTES

BOOTHBAY HARBOR

SELECTMEN’S MEETING

MAY 14, 2018

In addition to these typed minutes, video recordings of all Selectmen’s meetings are available to be viewed at BRCTV and audio recordings are available to be listened to at the Boothbay Harbor Town Office.

ATTENDING: Denise Griffin, Vice Chair

Russ Hoffman

Mike Tomko

Trisha Warren

Wendy Wolf, Chair

Tom Woodin, Town Manager

Julia Latter, Finance Officer

**Chair Wolf called the Board of Selectmen’s meeting to order at 7:00 pm.**

Pledge of Allegiance: The Board of Selectmen and members of the audience.

TOWN MANAGER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Union pointed out a couple of grammatical errors in the new personnel manual which have now been corrected.

2. The next Selectman's meeting will be on Tuesday, May 28th since Monday, May 29 is Memorial Day.

3. Barney Baker Design will soon have footbridge design concepts for them to examine.

[ Chair Wolf added that the footbridge, which will have to be raised due to storm surge and sea level rise, is an iconic structure in the Harbor so input from the public is encouraged.]

FINANCIALS:

Finance Officer Latter reviewed the financial totals with the Board confirming that 98% of the taxes have been collected.

MINUTES:

Vice Chairman Griffin **motioned** to approve the April 23rd minutes. Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

SELECTMEN REPORTS:

(None)

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LICENSES:

1. Selectman Hoffman **motioned** to approve an application for a **new** Victualer license from Downeast Ice Cream Factory (Class C). Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

2. Vice Chair Griffin **motioned** to approve the applications from the Boathouse Bistro, Inc. (Class H), Cod's Head, Inc. (Class H) and Mine Oyster (Class H) to **renew** their Victualer licenses. Selectman Hoffman **seconded**. **Motion passed 4 - 1 Abstention**. (Selectman Warren is employed by the Boathouse Bistro, Inc and by the owner of Cod's Head and Mine Oyster.)

3. Vice Chair Griffin **motioned** to approve the application from the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club (Class H) for a Victualer license **renewal**. Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Motion passed 3 to 2 Abstentions.** (Chair Wolf and Selectman Hoffman are members of the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club.)

4. Vice Chair Griffin **motioned** to approve the sixty-four Victualer license application **renewals** from Spruce Point Inn Resort & Spa (Class A), Circle #7028 (Class B), Eventide Specialties (Class B), Gimbel and Sons Country Store (Class B), Hannaford Supermarket #8143 (Class C), Coastal Maine Popcorn (Class C), Crow Point Herbal Apothecary, Inc. (Class C), Downeast Candies, Inc. (Class C), Hometown Convenience (Class C), LMV Corp. DBA Finn McCools (Class C), Orne's Candy Store (Class C), The Curtis House (Class C), Wicked Whoopies (Class C), Crust (Class D), Dunton's Dog House (Class D), Fisherman's Wharf Inn (take out window) (Class D), Shannon's Unshelled (Class D), Wannawaf, Inc. (Class D), Sarah's Scoops (Class E), The Opera House at Boothbay Harbor (Class E), Admiral's Quarters Inn (Class F), Atlantic Ark Inn (Class F), Bayberry House (Class F), Blue Heron Seaside Inn (Class F), Bayside Inn B & B (Class F), Blueberry Pines B & B (Class F), Bridge Street Cafe' (Class F), Captain Sawyer's Place (Class F), Greenleaf Inn at Boothbay Harbor (Class F), Harborage Inn (Class F), Harbor House Inn B & B (Class F), Nana's Place B & B (Class F), Baker's Way (Class G), Lincoln Health (Class G), Blue Moon Cafe' (Class H), Boothbay Harbor House of Pizza (Class H), Boothbay Harbor Inn (Class H), Boothbay Harbor Oceanside Golf Resort (Class H), Boothbay Lobster Wharf, Inc. (Class H), Brown Brothers, Inc. (Class H), Capers (Class H), Carousel Theater Co., LLC (Class H), China By the Sea (Class H), Chowder House, Inc. (Class H), Fisherman's Wharf Inn (Class H), Gallery Gatherings and Events (Class H), Harborside Tavern (Class H), Linekin Bay Resort (Class H), Mama D's Mercantile (Class H), McSeagull's Restaurant (Class H), Midcoast Gateway, LLC/Russell House B & B (Class H), Mystic Mermaid (Class H), Pier One Pizza, Inc. (Class H), Ports of Italy (Class H), Red Cup Coffeehouse (Class H), Spruce Point Inn Resort & Spa (Class H), The Thistle Inn (Class H), The Tugboat Inn (Class H), The Whale's Tale (Class H), Topside Inn (Class H), Wave's Restaurant (Class H), Harbor Theater (Class H) and Harbor Theater (Class I). Selectman Hoffman **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

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5. Vice Chair Griffin **motioned** to approve the application for a **new** Liquor license from Oak Street Cafe'. Selectman Hoffman **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

6. Selectman Warren **motioned** to approve the applications for Liquor license **renewals** from Boothbay Harbor Oceanside Golf Resort and Ports of Italy. Selectman Hoffman seconded. **Unanimous approval**.

7. Selectman Warren **motioned** to approve the application from the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club for a Liquor license **renewal**. Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Motion passed 3 - 2 Abstentions**. (Chair Wolf and Selectman Hoffman are members of the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club.)

8. Selectman Hoffman **motioned** to approve the applications from Fisherman's Wharf Inn, The Tugboat Inn, Boothbay Harbor Inn, Boothbay Lobster Wharf, Inc., Boothbay Harbor Oceanside Golf Resort and Mystic Mermaid for Special Amusement license **renewals**. Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Chair Wolf stated the Board needed to elect new officers for the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Tomko **nominated** Wendy Wolf to continue as Chair of the Board. Selectman Hoffman **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

Selectman Tomko **nominated** Denise Griffin to continue as Vice Chair. Chair Wolf **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

2. Chair Wolf stated the Select Board needed to approve applying for a Shore and Harbor Planning Grant (for $29,500 with a match of $10,000 from the town) which had been suggested by Bob Faunce of the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission. The grant if received would be used to engineer the cost of repairing the Fish Pier. The deadline to submit the grant application is Thursday, May 17th.

Vice Chair Griffin **motioned** to approve submitting the grant application with the match from the town. Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

3. Chair Wolf explained that the members of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board use the comprehensive plan, which was approved by the voters in the town, as a guide as they moved into the future. Better and more access to the water as well as green space was a priority. The harbor is the jewel and the crown of the town so we want to show it off as much as possible. There has been a full-page ad in the paper, placed by the Craigs, about buying the Cap'n Fish property with private funds and then donate it to the town. However, this property does not seem to be for sale now.

Chair Wolf asked if the people who were there that evening could think more strategically and broadly to make something like this happen when an opportunity presents itself.

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Acquisition of private property through public funds or private donations is something the voters of the town would have to approve since any such gift comes with strings attached. The landscape might need to be changed requiring resources to figure out want the property could look like. Then assuming ownership of that property in perpetuity would add it to the town's budget. However the interest and enthusiasm is wonderful. It is a discussion that is long overdue.

Vice Chair Griffin stated her husband who is a history buff had spend considerable time at the Boothbay Historical Society. He found an anonymous article in the Boothbay Register from 7/10/1886 about the need for a common park in the middle of Boothbay Harbor. It went on to say, "The past cannot be recalled. We only have the present everlasting now. Is it not time that something was done and that once in this direction? The village would be worth more after a little expenditure for this."

Vice Chair Griffin added that in 1989 Dr. James Todd gave the funds for a park between Oak Street and Todd Avenue. He had hoping for a bigger park which disappointingly never happened.

Vice Chair Griffin stated her point was they had missed an opportunity to purchase a parcel of land on McKown Point, then again when the bowling alley was sold and wondered how many more times they were going to miss the boat?

Selectman Tomko pointed out that the "walkability study" they had done in 2012 recognized the importance of public access to the water in Boothbay Harbor. This is also a conclusion in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan as well as the Economic Development Master Plan, prepared for the whole peninsula in 2018, by Camoin Associates. So Selectman Tomko echoed Vice Chair Griffin's advice not to let opportunity slip through their fingers.

Selectman Hoffman, while supportive of these points, reminded everyone of the Select Board's responsibility to the town on issues which affect the tax payers so should be part of the plan.

Selectman Warren was in favor of more green space and access to the water.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chair Wolf gave some guidelines before opening Public Forum for comments: Beginning with residents of Boothbay Harbor, to provide name, address and keep remarks no longer than three minutes if possible (without mention of any individuals).

1. Bob McKay stated he thought many people did not remember what the Whale Park used to look like and hoped the east side would have space planned for parks.

2. Lee Kimberly/Leah Timberlake thought more could be done with the Whale park, Barrett's Park or the Fish Pier instead of trying to purchase more green space.

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3. Bill Hamblen commented that as a working waterfront the Fish Pier was not safe for tourists.

4. Doug Carter stated there could be a pier built at Barrett's Park it would ease the pressure in Boothbay Harbor.

5. Bill Hamblen stated at the Planning Board meeting the week before he and the rest of the Board members did not have an opportunity to assert they totally support any endeavor of the town to pursue open space.

6. Jane McCarthy wondered if they needed a space as large as the Cap'n Fish property and suggested looking at other locations.

7. Peggy Racsicca stated she thought they needed to think BIG and read a quote from Albert Einstein: “Only those who attempt the absurd can achieve the impossible.”

8. Susan Craig stated there were presently only two places for public dockage in the harbor which was woefully inadequate. Susan also stated if they donated a property to the town they would also take care of clearing the property.

9. Michelle Wilson was in favor of creating a park on the east side of the harbor if a property like Cap'n Fish became available.

10. Kate Rice felt green space was especially important for children as well as tourists.

11. Betty Repa was totally in favor of creating green space.

12. Ken Fitch stated when walking his dog observed when visitors walk across the footbridge they look to their left and right then turn around and walk back to the west side because there is a disconnect.

13. Donna Piggott stated she felt Boothbay Harbor really captures the essence of "Maine."

14. Doug Carter stated he'd tried to give the town the Sea Pier thirteen years ago in 2005. At the time the town was thinking about purchasing the Lobster Co-op so were not interested.

15. Karen Grindall expressed concern about limited places to put a kayak in the water.

16. Patricia Minerich wondered why they couldn't make some of the parking lots into green space such as the parking lot by the Footbridge.

17. George Schimert felt increased revenue from the east side could be helpful.

18. Ron Richardson agreed that the Board of Selectmen should start preparing in case an opportunity should present itself. Ron also felt "impact fees" would be helpful.

19. Mary Kaler stated parking was an issue for people who want to go to the Whale Park. Mary also felt they needed to think of the future of the children.

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20. John O'Connell stated the town has been blessed by many generous people over the years and felt the Craigs should be commended.

21. Leah Timberlake was confused about which property was for sale. Leah was also wondering why everyone was suddenly so interested in getting green space.

22. Doug Carter suggested looking at other prospects on the east side of the harbor.

23. Tom Myette stated acquiring land for Maine's future respects landowner's rights by only acquiring land from willing sellers.

24. Susan Craig wanted to clarify that if the maritime/water dependant zone was changed to an overlay zone, maritime/water dependant businesses would be able to turn their properties into non-working waterfront businesses. [Bill responded the zone was not being changed to an overlay zone but to a mixed use zone to better describe the businesses already on the east side.]

25. Vice Chairman Griffin thanked the person who commented on considering other ways to achieve green space because there had been a **privately** owned park in the town where she lived as a girl.

26. Cody Mitchell hoped economic development and restoration/preservation could reach a balance and if they could have a park on the east side that it could be integrated with the west side in a collaborative manner.

27. Jean McKay wondered if the public could work with the Select Board to find a solution. [Chair Wolf responded it was more to do with how the Board could become an able partner if something comes up. Chair Wolf also pointed out the benefits of having a TIF district.]

28. Tom Minerich felt they had a good opportunity to do more at the Foot Bridge with some green space and a place to put a kayak in, etc. while they were in the process of renovating it.

29. Brenda \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ suggested doing something with the Boothbay Region Land Trust.

WARRANTS:

Vice Chair Griffin **motioned** to approve the warrants upon careful review. Selectman Warren **seconded**. **Unanimous approval.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

(None)

MOVE TO ADJOURN:

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:55 p.m. KB