

Board of Selectmen

Charles R. Cunningham -
Chairman
Steven Lewis – Vice Chairman
Dale Harmon
Kristina Ford
Michael Tomacelli

Town Manager

Daniel Bryer Jr.



**Town of Boothbay
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2018
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

Present: Steven Lewis, Dale Harmon, Michael Tomacelli, Chuck Cunningham, Kristina Ford, Town Manager Dan Bryer

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public Hearing: None scheduled

Public Comment: Chuck Cunningham begins the meeting commenting on a letter written to The Boothbay Register by Selectman Kristina Ford. He was ok with most of the content in the letter except for the statement that The Town of Boothbay did not advertise for nomination papers for all of the seats that are open this year. The Town of Boothbay did advertise, it was in the January 25, 2018 edition of The Boothbay Register next to the advertisement from the Town of Boothbay Harbor. He mentioned that Town Manager, Dan Bryer had stated at the February 14, 2018 meeting that it had been advertised so he was disappointed to see that written in the letter.

Kristina Ford apologized, saying she wrote that because she didn't see it advertised. She mentions a letter from the Boothbay Town Clerk, Lynn Maloney saying how the time limits for filing have changed and asks when they changed. Dan Bryer answers that they changed as of January 1, 2018.

Michael Tomacelli reads a letter from all of the Selectmen that is to be published in The Boothbay Register regarding Kristina Ford's letter to the editor. Dale Harmon speaks up to say he felt as though by Kristina Ford putting that letter in the paper it was chastising the staff as them not doing their job.

Dale Harmon states, "Our staff got it accurate, we got it in and said it correctly."

Kristina Ford mentions she feels like the town is not being managed very well and that the majority knows nothing about what the Selectmen do or why they do it. Dale Harmon points out that the Town of Boothbay has installed cameras in the room so every meeting is recorded and can be streamed online live if you have the technology. Steve Lewis mentions that the Town of Boothbay has had more Public Hearings and Public Meetings in the last two years than any town should have to, to be transparent.

Chuck mentions the Agenda for the Board of Selectmen meetings are now on the website.

They all agree that want more people to attend the meetings and get involved.

Approve Minutes: Dan Bryer states that Andi Lowery from the Business Office will be pulling them from the website and should have them ready by the next meeting. Kristina Ford is concerned because Sherry Tibbetts is a terrific minutes taker and because of the decisions they will be making they need good minutes. Dan mentions he left a message with Karen Cronk to see if she would be willing to do the minutes and he didn't hear back from her. Chuck Cunningham also states he doesn't want to get too far behind on the minutes either.

Reports: Dan Bryer reported that the Public Works is trying to catch up on floats right now. Getting all the floats out and the repairs done so we will be ready for the season. The Code Enforcement Office has two building permits, one shore land building permit, one internal plumbing permit and one subsurface plumbing permit. The Appeals Board has one development application and the Coastal Maine Botanical

Gardens has been tabled. The Business Office is the usual day to day. We are still accepting taxes and we are seeing more people come in probably due to the longer days and better weather.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Outside Organization Funding Requests:

Boothbay Region Community Television: Manager, Cody Mitchell is presenting the information to the board. Steve Lewis asks if he looked into what the Town of Boothbay gets for franchise fees. Cody said it is around \$32,000.00 and that it is trending upwards. They are requesting an additional \$10,000.00 in funding this year. Right now the Town of Boothbay supports them with 2/3 of the funding and they are asking for Boothbay to cover it all this year. They have increased their services and are doing a lot more for the community. They have an average of around 100 to 200 people watching the live government streams. They are live streaming sports events and they have been chosen by the Maine Arts Commission to live stream the Poetry Out Loud Finals for the whole state. Live streaming is very expensive, they have prescriptions they need to have to get the feedback to the studio to broadcast it on cable. They are available on the internet, Apple TV, Roku and Facebook.

They have done a large renovation to the studio thanks to a substantial one time donation. Steve Lewis mentions that showing a budget will help their case. Cody explains they need more manpower to do more fundraising. Mr. Tomko talks about the funding and budget as well and how hard Cody works and that it is many hours more than he is paid for. They have developed a program for teaching students and adults how to use and maintain the equipment. They also teach them communication skills and leadership skills.

Chuck Cunningham praises them for their good work and how they have improved greatly. They want to start a sponsorship program and diversify their funding. Cody mentions how the FCC and Time Warner Cable strongly encourage that the franchise fees go to a public access organization if one exists.

They invite the board to visit the studio and see how much has been done to improve things. Tom Nickerson speaks up about how much manpower is goes into a show. He also states, " I think Dan Bryer is doing a hell of a job managing this town." The board thanks Cody and Mr. Tomko for their presentation and remind them that nothing will be decided tonight.

LifeFlight Foundation: The representatives for LifeFlight hand out packets to the board members that includes their budget and "nuts and bolts". It is mentioned how healthcare is changing and we have experienced it firsthand because of the loss of our hospital. He mentions the Boothbay Region Ambulance Service takes great care of our citizens. They have three helicopters in the State of Maine. They recognize themselves as a vital partner in the EMS system in rural Maine. Scene calls or accidents are about 15% of their services. Facility to facility transfers are the biggest area of service provided. They have flown people as far as Cleveland for special lifesaving treatment and services. Lincoln County averages out at about 53 requests per year, 39 were able to be done. That is an 84% efficiency rate. Weather is the main reason why a transfer can't be done. They have added two new aircrafts, they raised funds at the foundation level to be able to purchase them. One is a fixed wing aircraft to be able to fly in different weather. The other is a Next Gen Augusta 109 helicopter based out of Lewiston. It has more fuel efficiency and can get to higher speeds. They are a private non-profit and they do not receive any funding from the state or from the federal government. The majority of their funding comes from Maine residents. They actually have flying ICUs. They do have a fund in place to help people who cannot pay for their services. The average cost charges is \$12000.00 per flight. That is the lowest cost in the country. They are covered by Medicare and they do not charge for stand bys that are cancelled. The board thanks them for their presentation.

2. Discussion with Area Fishermen about the Potential Aqua Ventus Wind Power Project:

Representative Elizabeth Swain with Power Engineers in Freeport, introduces her colleagues. Dr. Habib

Dagher, a professor at the University of Maine and the Director of The Composite Center and Lead Project Manager for the Aqua Ventus Project and his assistant, Joshua Plourde. They are present to listen to additional concerns regarding the Aqua Ventus Project and answer questions asked by area fishermen at prior meetings. Larry Knapp from Boothbay is present and has been serving as a fisheries liaison, which means he is neutral. He is present to facilitate communication with the fishermen and make sure they are listening. Also present and a volunteer is Richard Wally who is based at the Darling Marine Center and is a faculty member of the University of Southern Maine School of Marine Sciences in Orono. He has worked in the area of Lobster Biology and fisheries for three decades. He is concerned about the issues that have been raised. Bob Stenick is also volunteering his time and has worked on 250 lobster boats and has used scuba gear and submarines to study lobsters in their home environment for 37 years. They are hoping to use their decades of experience to inform everyone about the decisions they are going to have to make.

Dr. Dagher has been at the University of Maine for 32 years, he teaches civil engineering. A decade ago they started working on the Offshore Wind Project. The purpose of the project is to do research and demonstrations of two floating turbines off the coast of Maine. They competed in a national competition to develop offshore wind technology that would bring costs down and they won the competition. They are hosting a national research project in the State of Maine. If it is successful the technology could be used anywhere in the country. The project involves using floating wind turbines that could be placed 20 to 50 miles off shore. They would float and be moored to the sea bed with mooring lines and anchors. He shows a model of one of the turbines and explains that they made the hull design. They had meetings with the fishermen and catalogued their questions and are trying to address those questions tonight. They don't have all the answers, there is no cable route selected for the project yet and they are hoping the fishing industry will work with them to find a route that won't interfere with the fisheries. They are hoping to have minimal impact on the fisheries. He addresses a question regarding contaminants in the area. A lot of shipbuilding has been done in the East Boothbay area and disturbing the soil could release the contaminants and could close the fishing in that area. They are planning to do core samples to see if there would be contaminants in the sea bed and if there are contaminants they will not put the cable there. They are going to work with the fishermen to hire an independent contractor to do the core samples. Eben Wilson who currently fishes out of Bristol and grew up in East Boothbay mentioned there has been no attempt to contact the oyster fishermen. 80% of the oysters come out of the Damariscotta River. He pointed out that they need to contact all the fisheries not just the lobstermen. Dr. Dagher explains that because they have only been looking at East Boothbay for a short time they still need to look at all the aspects of putting a live cable there. He explains that it is a "surgical digging to put the line in and it would create silt, but less than the average scallop drag would cause. An area shrimp fisherman states that if the shrimp fishery is opened again when he drags for shrimp his gear could get snagged on the cable and get ruined. They can't bury all the cable there is too many rocky outcroppings in that area. Dr. Dagher explains how they would armor the cable or cover it with cement mats to prevent that from happening. There is a 20 year time limit for this project, the cable will be removed when the project is done. All of the fishermen do not trust what they are saying because the project was a much smaller scale and now is quite a bit bigger. This project is causing residents of Monhegan to stop talking to each other. The lobstermen just want to be left alone so they can continue fishing. Chuck Cunningham states that nothing has been decided on anything yet. It is agreed that without a good core test no decisions can be made. They have a draft letter that they have written up to state that they will not give a license to any company without getting the approval of the fishermen. They want their input on how the letter should be worded. They will have the answers to all of the questions posted on the website maineaquaventus.com for anyone who wants to see them. The board thanks them for coming and appreciates being able to hear opinions from both sides. Any additional questions can be sent to the Aqua Ventus website and they will answer them as soon as they can.

3. The Town Warrant and the Budget: Dan Bryer explains there are still items they are tracking and invoices are still coming in. The Water District line will probably change on the budget. He hopes to firm the numbers up by March 14, 2018. At the next meeting they will have a Public Hearing. Steve Lewis asks if they can have the budget and something with all of the Outside Organizations listed. Article 3 will be changed to the 15th because the 16th is a Saturday. Michael Tomacelli points out a typo. Article 28, they may need to change the verbiage, Sally hasn't looked at it yet. Kristina Ford questions the

Saying, "that is recommended it pass." They explain it has been done that way since the 1970's. Kristina Ford states that she thinks the website needs to be redone, it is overly complicated. She is also concerned that landscaping the common isn't in the budget. They explain there will be fundraising for that.

Kristina Ford offers her salary to put the agenda in the paper. Michael Tomacelli addresses Kristina's confusion over the budget. He states that the budget is based on historical performance and is adjusted as changes occur during the course of the year. Kristina mentions her concern over the entry to the Town Office. She is worried people will slip and fall. They all agree they need handrails but need to wait for it to warm up before they can be put into the ground. Kristina mentions if there are no hand rails by the time to vote that they get kids to volunteer to help people into the building. That could fall under the public service they need to get yearly.

Kristina Ford will make sure the agenda gets in the paper and she wants Chuck Cunningham to help her with that. Chuck agrees to work with her on that. Dan Bryer states he will get a draft agenda by Monday. The Town of Boothbay website will have an updated agenda. Having Wednesday meetings makes it hard to get the agenda into the paper.

Public Comment: Bill Pearson from The Boothbay Register asks about discussions the town selectmen are having with the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Chuck Cunningham states that it is under a court order and they are not allowed to comment on the discussions at this time.

Michael Tomacelli requests to put the letter he read into The Boothbay Register and he wants it signed by all and believes the record needs to be set straight. Chuck Cunningham thanks Kristina Ford for her apology and said they will check the broadcast to make sure the letter is accurate.

Review Warrants and sign: Steve Lewis motions to review warrants and sign them. Dale Harmon seconds that. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Chuck Cunningham motions to adjourn. Dale Harmon seconds it. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Minutes submitted by Andrea D. Lowery, Deputy Town Clerk