

**Board of Selectmen**

Chuck Cunningham - Chairman  
Michael Tomacelli – Vice Chairman  
Dale Harmon  
Steven Lewis  
Russell Pinkham

**Town Manager**

Daniel Bryer Jr.



**Town of Boothbay  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Wednesday, October 26, 2022  
6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Recorded meetings located at <https://townhallstreams.com/towns/boothbay> for more in depth discussions.**

**Present:** Chuck Cunningham, Russell Pinkham, Steve Lewis, Dale Harmon, Mike Tomacelli and Town Manager, Dan Bryer Jr.

**Chuck called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Hearings: None**

**Public Comment: None**

**Approve Minutes: None**

Will have them at the next meeting

**Reports:**

Dan – Early voting has started. We have 580 in absentee ballots already, which is a large number for us. Paving has started on River Road and on Pension Ridge to Hardwick Road. Crooker should have it done in two weeks. All the prep work is done, this is the last year of Crooker's two year bid.

**Old Business:**

Administrative Code Review – There are seven items that Mike would like to go over. Steve suggests having a workshop before or after an upcoming meeting so they can all work on it together and then run it by Sally Daggett. Dan tabled the review until the first meeting in December. They have until mid- February to get the verbiage together.

**New Business:**

Crystal Canney, Executive Director of Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation proposes an Aquaculture Moratorium for the Selectmen to consider enacting. They started three and a half years ago to take a serious look at aquaculture and work towards a reasonable development solution. Maine has a 1,000 acre limit and that is way too much. Companies are holding leases for 10 to 20 years with no reviews needed in between. Transfers of lease can be done without mandatory public hearings and it is only \$1.00 an acre to lease. Preparing for industrial sized aquaculture is the focus. They have met with The Department of Marine Fisheries, Selectmen and Town Councils to enact an emergency Moratorium in other towns on the coast of Maine. They would like to see each community come up with its own regulations. John Lewis from DMR is a supporter of aquaculture. He was hired in 1997 out of Alaska as a scientist diver and the only full time employee in the aquaculture department at the time. The Darling Center figured out a way to grow things in a marine environment and we owe those people a debt of gratitude between climate change and diminished resources aquaculture is the key to growth in the economic future in this area. Lots of nonprofits and government programs gave to the program and promoted it. Leases done in the beginning were done by locals but now venture capitalists are coming in and wanting to do large scale farms. A moratorium would give the communities a say in what is done, what size, type, methods used and controls in place. A very large farm built by venture capitalist's money for huge profit at the expense of the

environment and our culture is not what we want to allow. DMR and resource agencies are not getting sufficiently funded for a regulating environment. It takes around 3 years to get a decision, it involves The Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corp of Engineers. DMR approves leases at 95% once they get to the table. Decent rules and regulations need to be in place.

Towns that have passed a moratorium are now working on the ordinance portion. Cutler, Winter Harbor, Machiasport, Beals, Addison and Roque Bluffs are all going ahead with the moratorium. Crystal has sample language she can provide for the ordinance and Protect Maine has made the commitment to stand behind the communities.

Russ suggests the Planning Board come up with regulations instead of putting a moratorium on aquaculture. Steve would want to talk to Sally Daggett, the town attorney before doing anything. Chuck suggest having a couple of public hearings should be the first step. Dale is hoping that if more towns decide to do the moratorium it will send a message to the state that they need more regulations and funding for DMR.

Sally Kent spoke about the issues with the aquaculture farm near her house. She said it is in the way of boat traffic, swimming and an eye sore. She said if it was around the corner it wouldn't bother anyone. She believes DMR is too shorthanded and should be stopped until they get the proper amount of help. A lot of the applicants claim that where their farms will be located will not interfere with fishing and navigation but documenting use is hard to do. Sarah Wentworth another property owner in Boothbay voiced her concerns as well. Chuck says they should schedule public hearings after Sally takes a look at everything.

#### **Old Business:**

Broadband – There is a discussion regarding bids for bringing broadband to Blue Hill Shores and Annable Road. One bid from Spectrum is a little over \$46,000.00 to take care of the Blue Hill Shores installation. No estimate has come in for Annable Road yet. Steve thinks it would be a good idea to meet with Spectrum again on their contract offer. Mike suggested a workshop to go over changes they would like to see happen with the Spectrum contract.

#### **Wharf and Weir Application:**

One Wharves and Weirs application is up for approval. The owner is RWH Investments, LLC at Map U10, Lot 24 located at 606 Ocean Point Road in East Boothbay. The packet has a letter from the Harbormaster and there are no issues with navigation or injuries to the rights of others. Dale made a motion to approve. Mike seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

#### **Public Comment: None**

#### **Review Warrants and Sign:**

Chuck made a motion to review and sign warrants. Dale seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor

#### **Adjourn Meeting:**

Chuck made a motion at 7:05 PM to adjourn the meeting. Dale seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.