

Board of Selectmen

Chuck Cunningham - Chairman
Steven Lewis - Vice Chairman
Dale Harmon
Russell Pinkham
Julie Roberts

Town Manager

Daniel Bryer Jr.



**Town of Boothbay
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, January 22, 2025
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

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

Present: Steve Lewis, Dale Harmon, Russell Pinkham, Chuck Cunningham, Julie Roberts and Town Manager, Dan Bryer Jr.

Chuck called the meeting to order AT 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearings: None

Public Comment: Evan Goodsky is the new County Commissioner for this area and he is present to introduce himself to the Board. He brought a new county flag as a gift to the town. The Fidium Project is getting started. That is a project he has been involved with for the past two years. Boothbay has two openings on the Lincoln County Regional Planning Board and Shri Verrill is interested in one of them. There is only six meetings a year. Dan believes Tom Maroney may be interested as well. He passed out business cards to the Board in case they need to contact him.

Approve Minutes: None to approve.

Reports: Dan said it's been relatively quiet. There is work continuing over on the Adams Pond Project. Some tree work has been done and they had to close off the road for a little while. The Public Works and First Responders were notified to check in with each other if they needed to see if the road is clear. The Road Crew did a fantastic job with the last storm. Everything was passable and the sidewalks were good. The bucket truck has paid for itself with this past event. It is a great asset and they even used it the Transfer Station for something up high. Dan feels it was a great investment. He is waiting to hear from the Botanical Gardens on the analytics Chuck requested. This January has been a lot better than last January.

Julie is wondering if the bucket truck could be used in Boothbay Harbor. She's hoping next year they might be able to help them with hanging banners. It would be for the Chamber of Commerce.

Old Business: None

New Business – Pole Permit for 48 Mathews Road. This has been strange, we received paperwork from both entities, the homeowner and the company. It's a standard permit, it's just the way it came through. They may need to add more lines for the board to sign. It's for Robert Hennessey. He can choose which company to go with. Dan is assuming that is just the way they do things. Dale made the motion to approve the pole and push brace with one anchor for Robert Hennessey at 48 Beath Road. Julie seconded. Vote 4-0 to approve.

Dan has been looking into what other Towns have for their Board of Selectman pay. It has been a long time since they have gotten a raise in salary. Compared to other towns their salary is pretty low. Dan is suggesting giving it a bump. Not many positions go twenty years without a raise in pay. Chuck believes if there is a change that it should be the same amount for everyone. The Chairman doesn't do anything extra, they all do the same thing. It will be a separate article on the Warrant and not within the budget to be voted on.

Dan would have to put it in the budget amount but would remove it if it's voted down. It's up to the voters. The current salary is at \$1800.00 a year and Dan only found one other town that pays their Selectmen less than that. It seemed to be the larger the town the smaller the amount. Every town does things a little different. There is a discussion regarding the amount. Kevin Bowler told them she believed they should get a raise because they deserve it. She supports their raise. Russ thinks that \$2500.00 would be adequate. They decided to have an article on the Town Meeting Warrant to raise the Selectman stipend from \$1800.00 to \$2500.00 per year. No motion was needed.

Meetings can be viewed on the website with the green tab that says streaming video. Julie wondered if Nicole can put a link on Facebook. Dan said he can put a rider in the in the header of the agenda to let people know all of the meetings can be streamed live. It's very easy to use the website link.

They look over the preliminary budget and articles. In the Outside Organizations list the third one down needs to have the contact information corrected. Dan needs input on who they would like to have come in and present to the Board. They all agree that any organizations asking for more money should come in.

Shri Verrill is present to give her quarterly report for the grant. She first wants to confirm that she got appointed for one of the spots on the Lincoln County Regional Planning Board. She was appointed at the last meeting. Shri was awarded a grant in November of 2022 to work with the Town on a Community Resilience Partnership. A year later there was a workshop that identified some priority climate actions. In February of last year there was a Municipal Resolution signed by the Board stating the Town will act on six priority climate actions. In March of 2024 the Town was enrolled into a Community Action Membership and submitted a Community Action Grant. In June the Town of Boothbay in partnership with the Town of Boothbay Harbor was conditionally awarded the amount of \$78,820.00. In July the State requested reviews and they were submitted. In August the award information was received and on October 2nd the check arrived. On November 13th Dan hired Shri as Principal of Sunrise Ecologic to manage the grant and conduct an assessment to support the Climate Teams Outreach and Education Program.

At the November 30, 2020 meeting we had breakout sessions and the top priority for the people present was unpreparedness. Energy and power dependency were the other highest concerns. There are two opportunities to move forward with the action items with no cost to the Town. This pertains to municipal buildings and coordinating with the schools to conduct a baseline assessment for energy efficiency and weatherization and come up with a plan to execute it. There was a discussion regarding a rebate to go towards single zone heat pumps. Shri is requesting the Boards approval to work with Dan to move things forward. The board agrees that the Fire Department is one that could benefit from having heat pumps installed. Shri has a contact Gordan Wiley of Evergreen Mechanical and he would be the one to do the assessments. He would be doing this at no cost. The Board gave Dan permission to work with Gordan Wiley on the assessments and bring information back to them. As part of the grant work the Climate Action Team submitted to a grant for an additional \$28,000.00. They just need to know what the Town will be using the money for before it is rewarded. It's focused on local sea lines and water monitoring. She doesn't know if they have installed the hyper local tide data buoys in East Boothbay yet. The buoys once installed will send text messages with tide data to East Boothbay residents. There are numerous grants available to help us be prepared. There is a discussion about the East Boothbay causeway and if it is the State or Town's responsibility. Shri said the Town needs to show what they want done to make it a priority with DEP. They have to see considerable community support. Steve wonders when they will fix the causeway because it keeps eroding more and more. It's a State road and Dale thinks we should petition the State. It's the most vulnerable spot in Boothbay. Shri would like to have a community discussion next month. Julie thinks it would be good to have it during a Selectman's Meeting. She is requesting to have a reserve fund set up for climate action projects to help with preparedness. There is a discussion on grants. Dan mentioned the Fire Department has also been applying for grants.

Public Comments –

Russ asked for information on the East Boothbay Post Office. A business has been in touch with Dan and they have a space that isn't being used. They have been discussing possibly putting a Post Office there. The building is in great shape. They are just waiting to hear from the US Postal Service.

Kevin Bowler asked about a lot of cars with lights on top of them that have been seen all around town. Someone came to their door and said he worked for AT&T and he needed to take pictures of their pole. The Board believes Fidium should be giving us updates on what they are doing in our town. Dan will reach out to them. Kevin also wanted to know if there is an update on getting power to the Memorial Park at the center. She also gave copies of an article that the Boothbay Register had regarding the Memorial in East Boothbay. It was built in 1951, a man built it himself and donated his time.

Review Warrants and Sign:

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

Adjourn Meeting:

Dale made a motion to adjourn. Russ seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.