

**TOWN OF BREMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM
April 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Selectpersons present: Wendy Pieh, Henry Nevins, John Marsh (via zoom)

Public Via Zoom: Matthew Hanly, Bremen Broadband Committee; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Walter Voskian, Bremen Planning Board Chairman; Mary Voskian, Bremen Bicentennial Committee; Jim Corbett, Deputy Director for Bremen's Rescue/First Responders; Walter Radloff; Martha Frink; Autumn Mahoney; Mary Berger; Bill McPadden; Jack Boak; Mary Sue Weeks; Bisi Cameron Yee, The Lincoln County News; and Melanie Pendleton, Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Walter Voskian, Chairman of the Bremen Planning Board, asked the Selectmen for information regarding the Maine Municipal Association review of three letters discussed at the April 1st Select Board meeting. The letters address conditions imposed by the Planning Board that applicants must complete before and/or after their permits' issuances. The Selectmen reviewed the MMA's legal opinion. The opinion suggested such letters should be handled by the Town's CEO. The selectmen will ask CEO Stan Waltz to share any letters he sends with the Planning Board, and the Deputy Town Clerk will be asked to continue maintaining a spreadsheet on the permit conditions that need attention for the CEO's use.

Walter also is working on how applicants can register Shoreland Zoning expansions with the Registry of Deeds.

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission (BCC), and Mary Sue Weeks discussed a missing sign at the entrance of the Hilton O'Connor Trail in the Town Forest. The Town Clerk will work with Mary Sue to determine the correct wording for a replacement sign and the medium for the sign. Ann also discussed parking for the trail. The group will check with the Patriotic Club to see if it maintains the picnic area near the trail.

The BCC will sponsor speakers this summer including a seminar on invasive species. The group also is working with Town Assessor Jim Murphy to walk the property lines of town-owned lands. The BCC looked into tree management of town-owned properties and determined that not cutting was a better alternative for promoting good carbon and bird habitat than selective cutting.

Several members of the public asked if the Town had any ordinances regarding rental houseboats in waters abutting Bremen's shoreline. Selectman Nevins said he would find out more about the rental houseboats being proposed, but Bremen does not have

any mooring ordinances in fresh water. The Town Clerk and CEO will look into State ordinances.

Autumn Mahoney asked about a State project for roadwork on Route 32. The State is planning culvert replacement in 2022. Some traffic will be diverted to Turner Road with heavier vehicles being diverted to Business Route 1.

Mary Voskian, Bremen Bicentennial Committee, reported on plans for a free, outdoor concert by Castlebay in August to celebrate the Town's bicentennial. All coronavirus protocols will be followed. The band will be paid \$300 from a \$500 grant awarded to the Town. The remaining \$200 will be used for printed material and children's activities. She also suggested displaying plans for a new playground at the celebration. Since the playground has not been approved, the Select Board said it would discuss the matter at its May 6th Select Board meeting.

Matthew Hanly, Bremen Broadband Committee, updated the Select Board on Tidewater's progress. By the end of April, 225 resident applications received thus far will be entered into the Tidewater system for processing. There are 35 more residents that have expressed interest but have not yet submitted applications. All application from residents must be received by May 30 to be entered in the current Bremen program. Tidewater has completed its main fiber installation and will move to field splicing and fiber drops. Residents will be contacted in May to begin scheduling individual installations and service activations to occur in May and June.

Selectman Henry Nevins reported that a seasonal portable toilet at the Hay Property would cost \$180 per month, up \$30 from last year's rental price. The potty would be handicap accessible. Selectman John Marsh said the Town should provide the facility for the public and for protection of water quality.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Selectmen unanimously approved spending \$180 per month to place a seasonal portable toilet at the Hay Property in the same location as last year.

The Select Board announced there would be a revaluation of properties in 2024. The revaluation is necessary to keep up with rising property sale prices versus assessed values to meet State ratios. Selectmen Marsh said the Town needs to keep a close eye on mil rates in light of the revaluation.

The Selectmen revisited the question of mailing the Annual Town Report. The cost of mailing is \$700.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Selectmen approved spending \$700 to mail the Annual Town Report. The vote was Chairwoman Pieh and John Marsh in favor and Henry Nevins against.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Selectmen moved \$1,300 from the First Responders' donation fund to pay for a compliance consultant.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of 4/01/2021.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the warrants of 4/01/2021 and 4/16/2021.


Upcoming Meetings:

Special Town Meeting – Saturday, May 8 at 10 a.m. at the Firehouse

Annual Town Meeting – Saturday, June 26

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:


Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Wendy Pieh, Chair

John Marsh


Henry Nevins