

**TOWN OF BREMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM
May 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

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

Public Via Zoom: Matthew Hanly; Kim Hetherington; Joseph Vitti; Mary Berger; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Walter Voskian, Bremen Planning Board Chairman; Mary Voskian, Bremen Bicentennial and Town Center Project committees; Don Leeman, Bremen Fire Chief; Bisi Cameron Yee, The Lincoln County News; and Melanie Pendleton, Town Clerk

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

Mary Voskian, Town Center Project Committee, was asked to discuss plans for a playground. She explained the vision for a nature-based play area. A drawing of the plan had been sent to the Town in October.

The discussion continued to costs. From an earlier presentation, the Selectmen believed the Town would not incur costs associated with the playground. Mary clarified that there would be no cost to the Town because the committee would be writing grants, fundraising, and asking for donations for the various elements of the play area. Mary said the committee will continue writing grants. It already has received two grants from the Lincoln County Municipal Planning Commission. Maintenance, insurance, etc. she believed, should be covered by the Town as it covers the Town Center property and other Town-owned facilities.

Chairwoman Pieh shared her concern that it was not known yet who would own the land where the playground would be placed. Other aspects were unclear as well.

Mary continued by outlining a plan to have parents or other interested Town residents – perhaps known as Friends of the Playground – check the equipment twice a year for safety, durability and presentability. If repairs needed to be made, and those repairs required a professional, one would be hired. Currently, there are four families who say they would be involved with the project. Mary suggested she would find more families as the project progressed.

With regard to insurance for the playground, the Town Clerk and Selectman Nevins reported that they had talked briefly with Marcus Ballou, a representative of Municipal Maine Association and the Town's insurer, who gave them a book on government standards for insuring a playground.

Mary asked the Selectmen if she could be included in future meetings with Mr. Ballou to explain the nature-based features of the play area. She felt it would be more insurable than a traditional playground.

She asked if the committee could give a slide presentation to the public and use the Firehouse, inviting the public to view the presentation and garner interest in the playground, and hopefully, to receive donations and attract volunteers.

Selectwoman Pieh explained that as the project has progressed, the issue of liability became more focused for the Town. Initially, the playground was presented as a project that would not cost the Town anything or raise taxes. Selectman Nevins asked for more information from the committee, so safety and liability could be assessed.

Mary explained that the playground envisioned would be much safer than a standard playground, so liability would be minimized. She pointed out that some members of the Library board informally discussed the need for a barrier at the parking lot as a safety precaution. She also discussed safety with Bremen CEO Stan Waltz, who said it would be up to the Town to determine what kind of safety barriers would be required.

Selectwomen Pieh said safety also would include the types of activities in the playground. The Select Board would need clearly explained details of activities, accurate information on costs, and responsibilities for insurance, etc., to share with the Town for a future Town meeting and vote.

Mary asked for a list of requested items from the Select Board so the committee could address them. She also asked for the Town's support of the project. Several community members spoke in favor of the project.

Selectman Marsh said the Town has been interested in the project, but its elected officials also have to protect the Town as it proceeds.

Selectwomen Pieh expressed interest in attending the committee's meetings to get a clearer view of the project.

Walter Voskian, Bremen Planning Board, reported that the Planning Board has been busy with two applications and an informal discussion for the May 11 meeting, plus Planning Board business.

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission (BCC), reported Joan Ray met with the Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust on Town Forest projects. They are considerable including bog bridge creations. With the cost of lumber increasing, the committee will install as much as it can afford. Pressure treated lumber will be used due to the wetness of the bog. Various trail groups will volunteer to help.

The Commission is working on signage including the one (being placed by the Town) honoring Mary Sue Week's sister, signage for Clam Island, signs from the Town Forest parking lot that show the access to the Town Forest from the parking lot, possibly a sign on the road indicating the parking area, and a historical sign for the Weston Springs property.

The Commission will have at least three presentations connected to Coastal Rivers at 4 or 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays this summer on invasive aquatic plants, invasive terrestrial plants and invasive insects. The presentations will be held at the Library or on zoom depending on coronavirus rules at the time.

Selectman Nevins reported that a dog waste trash receptacle will be placed in the upper part of the Hay property and will be emptied by the mowing contractor. He also will check on placing a trash receptacle for the Town Forest at the Firehouse lot.

Selectman Nevins asked Ann to read an agreement he recently received regarding stewardship on the Carl F. Berger Land Trust Preserve.

Deputy Town Clerk Cheryl Ferrara reported on printing and mailing of the Annual Town Report.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Select Board unanimously approved holding the Celebration of the State Bicentennial Plus One on Saturday, August 14, with a rain date of Sunday, August 15.

The Bicentennial Committee has \$1,000 in the Town's budget for a handicap accessible porta-potty, mowing and other expenses for the State Bicentennial Celebration.

Most towns have gone to in-person meetings and not requiring appointments for Town business. They are still requiring masks and social distancing.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Select Board unanimously approved holding in-person meetings for the Town.

Selectmen Marsh cautioned that coronavirus is raging in some parts of the globe.

The Board decided to pose the question to Dr. Peter Goth, the Town's Health Officer.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Select Board unanimously reconsidered the previous vote and will table it until more information can be gathered.

Selectman Nevins reported that repairs continue on Rial Herald Road. The road will be patched, and in August, it will be repaired. The road also will be chipped and sealed. Repairs will be paid for from the road reserve account. The lower part of Shore Road also will be chipped and sealed from the reserve account. Matthew Hanly requested the Selectmen look at the edge of Fogler Road where the gravel has washed away. Selectman Nevins said he would check on it.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of 4/15/2021.

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On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the warrants of 4/22/2021 and 4/29/2021.

Upcoming Meeting:
Annual Town Meeting – Saturday, June 26

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wendy Pieh, Chair

John Marsh

Henry Nevins