

**TOWN OF BREMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON  
January 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Selectmen present: Wendy Pieh; John "Boe" Marsh; Steve Page

Town Officials present: Melanie Pendleton, Town Clerk; Max Johnstone, Consultant

Public present: Matthew Hanly, Bremen School Board; Walter Radloff; Kerry Kohnert; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Tom Papell; Tony Ferrara, Computer Man; Elizabeth Walztoni, Lincoln County News

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

Max Johnstone, town consultant and senior planner at the MidCoast Council of Governments, reported on a visit by Doug Beck in October 2022 regarding the green space behind the Town Office and ways to secure improvement funding. Mr. Beck works with the Land Use Conservation Fund at the state level. The project discussed was rejuvenating the ballfield behind the Town Office and possibly other recreational projects in the area behind the Town Office. Mr. Johnstone suggested if the town wanted to do a grant, it should "think big" and consider pathway down to the ballfield, transitions to the Bremen Library's (currently conceptual) play area, and/or trail work in the ballfield area. Mr. Johnstone said he was looking for direction from the BOS on how to proceed. The grant would require the town to match the amount dollar for dollar. Once the grant money is spent, the land must remain designated as public recreation. The recreation area would be open to the public and not just a town facility. The grant deadline is June 30, 2023, but Mr. Beck's visit is good for two years. Walter Radloff suggested a survey to determine what people might want for recreational facilities. Tennis, pickleball, soccer, basketball and other youth and adult sports were mentioned.

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission, reported on the past night's meeting of the BCC. Mary Berger met with Mary Sue Weeks and the map is close to being done. Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust will print the map in color at no charge. The BCC talked about its budget submission. CRCT did a trail tour of the Hilton-O'Connor Trail. There are some students interested in mapping stone walls to reveal the history of the land. CRCT announced that it was negotiating for two parcels of land in Bremen. One is 167 acres and meets the Hillside Trail. CRCT also has received an outright gift of about 125 acres. The BCC plans to focus on developing the Hillside Trail in the coming year. All of this will expand the number of parcels for public use in Bremen.

The Town Clerk presented the Transfer Station contract for the town that took effect January 1, 2023. The annual amount due will be \$55,073.00 up \$4,300.00 from the 2022 contract. The majority of the increase came from Transfer Station wages and its capital reserve account.

***On a motion duly made by Selectman Marsh and seconded by Select Chair Pieh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the Transfer Station contract.***

The Board of Selectmen discussed the pros and cons of mailing the Annual Town Report. Printing the 2023 report will cost \$3,680.00 with a mail sorting charge of \$240.00 and a postage charge of \$800.00, if the report is mailed. The Annual Report was mailed in the last few years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that, the Annual Report was available for pickup at the Town Office, Bremen Post Office and Bremen Library. The Board did not make a decision on the method of delivery for the 2023 report. Selectman Marsh asked if a .pdf could be uploaded to the town's website.

The Town Clerk presented the Shellfish Warden's contracts for Rand Maker and the deputies. All contract information and costs are the same as 2022.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously accepted the Marine Law Enforcement Contract.***

The Town Clerk then presented the BOS with the Deputy Forest Fire Warden forms required for assigning authority to issue fire permits. Fire Chief Bruce Poland was sworn in by the local Forest Ranger. In turn, the Fire Chief can swear in deputies. Eric Teele, Ronnie Poland, Rufus Teele, David Teele and Melanie Pendleton will be deputies and will be able to issue fire permits. The Selectmen signed the forms.

The Town Clerk presented the BOS with the list of building permits issued for the month of December. There were only two building permits issued.

Selectman Marsh updated the Board on the Shellfish Meeting held January 12. The town and the Shellfish Committee are working with Brian Beals of Downeast Institute to study the clam flats and the regeneration of clams. The equipment with protective gear showed no evidence of green crabs incursion, and clams are regenerating. Outside the protective equipment, there was very little evidence of clam regeneration. The green crab problems can be traced to warming waters. Bremen will be one of three towns in the State selected as an experiment site for supercharging clam spawning. Downeast Institute will be seeking Bremen harvesters to plant, maintain and collect the spawning boxes. The harvesters will be paid.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the Selectmen's minutes of December 15, 2022; the Town Warrants of January 6 and January 20, 2023; and the Real Estate Tax Balancing Reports.***

In public comment, Tom Papell shared concerns about the tree down and power loss during a recent storm on Medomak Road. The downed tree blocked any vehicular traffic for many hours, and power lines were down that required CMP's help to mitigate. There was concern that an ambulance or other public safety service could not pass as the tree

blocked the road. Tom asked if there was any way to alert residents when a blockage occurred. There was an evacuation warming center set up at the Bremen Fire Station but many did not know about it. The Fire Department's social media was suggested as a way to broadcast that a warming center was available.

The Board moved into Executive Session for legal purposes at 5:54 p.m.

**A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:**

Cheryl S. Ferrara  
Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

**BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

W.P.D.  
Wendy Pieh, Chair

[Signature]  
John Marsh

[Signature]  
Stephen Page