

**TOWN OF BREMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON  
May 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Selectmen present: Wendy Pieh; Steve Page

Town Officials present: Melanie Pendleton, Town Clerk; Keena Cates, Deputy Clerk

Public present: Jim Corbett, Bremen First Responders; Eric Teele; John Tutton; Ava Keene; Walter Voskian, Planning Board; Walter Radloff; Kerry Kohnert; Susan Davis; Naomi Martin; Tom Papell; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Tony Ferrara, Computer Man

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen discussed distribution of the town's Annual Report. The Town Clerk said mailing would cost \$800.00.

***On a motion duly made by Selectman Page and seconded by Select Chair Pieh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to mail the 2022-2023 Annual Report at a cost of \$800.00.***

The Town Clerk presented information on a software program that would automatically transcribe town meetings that appear on zoom. Comparing the cost of hours for manual transcription versus the otter.ai software, the clerk felt the town would see a substantial savings. The otter.ai program would cost \$240.00 per year.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously authorized \$240.00 for the purchase of otter.ai for meeting transcriptions.***

Resident Ann Nesslage addressed the library's request for a sign on the outside wall of the Bremen Library. The sign would be internally illuminated, a type currently not allowed by ordinance. She asked if the Board of Selectmen could override the ordinance and make an exception in this case. The Board of Selectmen tabled the issue until a future meeting.

Jim Corbett, Bremen First Responders, asked the Board of Selectmen to approve the release of funds from the First Responders' donation fund to purchase necessary equipment to offer CPR/AED classes.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously authorized \$2,500.00 to be released from the Bremen First Responders' donation fund for the purchase of CPR educational equipment.***

Jim Corbett also spoke to the Bremen Broadband Committee's request to change the Land Use Ordinance to require future new builds using direct bury for electrical services also install a separate underground conduit for phone and internet services. The Town Clerk said she had reached out to Maine Municipal Association's lawyers to see if such an ordinance could be even feasible.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously decided to table the issue for now until further information is available.***

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission, discussed the map showing the new 157 acres acquired by Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust and how it links to the Hillside Trail. The BCC established a work list for upcoming Work Days and hoped to have more volunteers participate in the future. Ann and resident Kerry Kohnert expressed concerns about an encounter at the Hay Property. Selectman Page said he would talk to the Sheriff's Office and look into the cost and feasibility of placing a camera at the Hay Property. Ann also asked the Town Clerk to check with MMA to see if volunteers certified in chainsaw operation would still be a town liability.

Walter Voskian, Planning Board, said the PB will meet on May 9 for one application. The PB agenda will be sent out on the community emails. It is already available on the town website. Walt is waiting for the town attorney's response regarding CEO permits and ordinance violations that require a PB visit for remedy.

The town has received more interest since the truck bid was readvertised. The bid deadline is 4:30 p.m. on May 18th with a minimum bid of \$15,000.


The last storm caused serious erosion at the Hillside Cemetery. Selectman Page went out during the storm to observe the problem. He met with Eric Calderwood of Calderwood Engineering. Eric will prepare a report on the problem. Unfortunately, the repairs might require blasting that could come at some cost.

Residents discussed issues regarding the privately owned Evergreen Cemetery. The town is involved in one issue regarding digging that currently is in the hands of the town attorney.

**On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the Selectmen's minutes of April 20, 2023, the Town Warrant of May 5, 2023.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

**A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:**

  
Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

**BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

  
Wendy Pieh, Chair

  
John Marsh

  
Stephen Page