

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

Selectmen present: Wendy Pieh; Boe Marsh; Steve Page

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

Public present: Eric Teele, Assistant Fire Chief; Tom Papell, Road Commissioner; David Adkins, Road Commissioner; Mary Boothby; Susan Davis; Martha Frink; Kerry Kohnert; Walter Voskian, Planning Board; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Tony Ferrara, Computer Man

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

Bremen's Assistant Fire Chief Eric Teele asked for permission to upgrade the kitchen in the Fire Station. The building is owned by the Town of Bremen. The upgrades will be purchased from the Fire Department's donation fund.

***On a motion duly made by Selectman Page and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously gave its permission for the Fire Department to proceed with the upgrades presented.***

Select Chair Pieh announced that absentee ballots for the November 7th election are now available. The Town Clerk explained how to obtain a ballot. Select Chair Pieh also noted that the first installment of 2023-2024 property taxes is due by October 17th.

The Town Clerk presented a policy she asked the Board of Selectmen to adopt for the town office that outlined office procedures for handling Bureau of Motor Vehicles inventory; for setting a timeline for internal corrections; and for giving Deputy Clerks permission to handle materials and create reports.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously adopted the policy present by the Town Clerk for BMV procedures.***

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission, reported that the BCC had a lively meeting on October 4th. Subjects discussed were the Hay Property, including cutting trees along the shore and sumac along the edges; possibly planting trees in barren

areas of the Hilton O'Connor Trail; trail maintenance with Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust; and mowing on public lands that has been traditionally mowed by the town. CRCT will be working on a budget with the BCC. The Hillside Trail may be deferred due to CRCT's work on adjacent lands.

Walter Voskian, Planning Board, reported that the PB will meet on October 10th with one application for a dormer. The PB also will discuss a letter it received from the Town Attorney at the last PB meeting and requests to the Town Attorney made at the PB meeting in March. The Selectmen and Walter discussed procedures for PB meetings. Resident Martha Frink asked about the Appeals Board. Resident Susan Davis asked if the permitting process had changed.

Road Commissioner Tom Papell reported that Nobleboro brush cutting has not been done but is still in the plans. The Selectmen and Tom discussed patching on Rial Herald Road. The Road Commissioners were praised for the good job on Keene Neck Road.

The Town Clerk let the Selectmen know that an ad for bids for the demolition of a condemned house at 83 Turner Road has been published in the Lincoln County News. Bids will be opened on October 19th at 5:30 p.m. At this time, the estate of the deceased owner has not accepted the property due to back taxes that need to be paid. Foreclosure action has begun but will not be completed until late 2024 or early 2025.

The Town Clerk responded to a resident's request from the last BOS meeting. Because the Town Attorney may need to represent the town, the Town Attorney said the resident would need to seek her own legal representation for legal guidance in any appeals action.

The Town Clerk presented information from the Maine Municipal Association that confirmed that MMA would not take on liability coverage for non-employees using power tools on town land, even if using their own equipment. The rules are stricter for governmental entities than they are for non-profit organizations.

Resident Mary Boothby approached the Selectmen to discuss the American Field Service student exchange program. As a parent of a Lincoln Academy student, she said she knew of at least three students using AFS as their exchange program. Currently, students who participate in the AFS program do not receive educational funds from the town during their time studying away. Lincoln Academy is not affiliated with AFS, so when students are abroad, they are not enrolled in Lincoln Academy; and therefore, the town is not paying tuition for the student. Mary asked if the town's education money could go to the student while attending the AFS program. The Town Clerk suggested that Mary approach Bremen's School Board members as a place to start with her inquires.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman March, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the Board of Selectmen's minutes of September 21, 2023, the town warrant of September 29, 2023, and the minutes from the Special Town Meeting for the State General Assistance Ordinance.***

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

**A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:**

*Cheryl S. Ferrara*  
Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

**BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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Wendy Pieh, Chair

*John Marsh*  
John Marsh

*Stephen Page*  
Stephen Page