

**TOWN OF BREMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON
July 16, 2026 5:00 p.m.**

Selectmen present: Tom Papell, John "Boe" Marsh, Henry "Hank" Nevins

Town Representatives: Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk, Fire Chief Eric Teele

Public present: Ann Nesslage, BCC, Bennett Collins, Rufus Teele, Martha Frink, Steve Barnes, Sandra Thomas, Susan Davis, Debora Elliott, Drew Webb, and Morgan Vannosdall, Lincoln County News

The Selectmen meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by Chair Papell.

The Selectmen discussed erosion at Heath Road Bridge on the upstream side. The Department of Transportation inspected the area in 2023. Chair Papell looked at the area recently.

On a motion made by Selectman Nevins and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the selectmen moved to hire an engineer/consultant to evaluated the situation and propose corrective action.

So voted 3-0

On a motion made by Chair Papell and seconded by Selectman Nevins, the selectmen assigned liaisons to the following groups: Planning Board – Hank Nevins, Ordinance Review Committee – Boe Marsh, and Human Resources - Tom Papell.

So voted 3-0

Chair Papell confirmed there would be no chip sealing of roads in this budget year. Resident Sandra Thomas commented that the grading of Shore Road was done well. She told the Board she would like to canvas Shore Road regarding paving before any decisions were made. No action was taken.

Resident Bennet Collins commented on recent torrential rains and suggested hay bales could slow water in swales on Storer Road. Chairman Papell said the town will look at all the roads.

Ann Nesslage, BCC, reported that there were more than 40 people at the Tree Panel Discussion held on Wednesday, July 15th. She cautioned about the winter moths now affecting oak trees. She told the Board that the BCC probably will not hold a panel on August 19th, and she would let the Town Clerk know.

Cheryl Ferrara, Comprehensive Plan Committee, gave an update on her meeting with Max Johnstone, the town's consultant. Max reviewed the community survey draft and preliminary work done by the committee's working groups.

Max felt the survey was good, and the working groups were headed in the right direction. He suggested survey responses likely will come in the first two months, but the survey could stay in the field for as long as the committee desired. He also commented that the finished document should be no more than 200 pages. Max will be attending the Comprehensive Plan Committee's September 24th meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

The Selectmen reported that the "Smoky the Bear" sign was too big for the town's sign ordinance and State of Maine setbacks.

On a motion made by Chair Papell and seconded by Selectman Nevins, the selectmen set the Commitment Date for Tuesday, July 28th @ 8:00 a.m.

So voted 3-0

Resident Steve Barnes presented information on the Hay Property and its origins as a field that could be mowed and walked across without a path. He cited its recreational value. With respect to the songbirds, he suggested mowing could be done around fledging schedules. Other residents weighed in on their vision for the property. Chair Papell said the Board would work on finding out what people want. Selectman Marsh agreed that the Board should gather additional information from the residents as to what the Hay Property use should be as was agreed upon at the July 2nd Board meeting.

On a motion made by Chair Papell and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the selectmen approved a one-time use of the town's emblem/logo by the Patriotic Club.

So voted 3-0

The Selectmen discussed an abatement agreement for a taxpayer. In the best interest of the town and to avoid costly litigation, a four-year abatement was discussed and then the property can be reassessed. Two years have already passed of the four-year period.

On a motion made by Chair Papell, seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board agreed to the abatement with Selectman Nevins abstaining.

So voted 2-0, with one abstention.

On a motion made by Chair Papell and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board accepted the warrant of July 17, 2026.

So voted 3-0

On a motion made by Chair Papell and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board accepted the minutes of July 2, 2026.

So voted 3-0

On a motion made by Chair Papell and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Thomas Papell, Selectman



John Marsh, Selectman



Henry Nevins, Selectman