

Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes

June 9, 2025 Meeting

Attendees:

Select Board Members Present	Elizabeth Lenharr (Liz Lenharr) Marsha Shute Betsy Bradley - Chair John Bellino – Interim Town Manager
Select Board Members Absent	
Recording Secretary	Sarah Hardy
Community members	Approximately 15 community members were in attendance for some or all of the meeting. Speaker names were captured in the notes as best as possible. No attendance list was captured.

Yellow Highlight indicates NEW action items.

Blue Highlight indicates incomplete notes, based on in-person note taking where something was missed. May need to go to tape backup if it exists.

#	Agenda	Notes
1.	Roll Call: Call to Order	Betsy Bradley called meeting to order at 8:02am roll call – see attendance above
2.	Adjustment to the agenda	none
3.	Approval of minutes from May 27th	Betsy Bradley made a motion to approve the May 27th, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Marsha Shute, the motion passed unanimously
4.	Broadband Easement	John Bellino – the broadband contractor just need formal permission to finish the documentation for the broadband box placement on town property. Betsy Bradley makes a motion to approve the easement for Unitil doing business as Direct Communications for the next phase of broadband installation, seconded by Marsha Shute, all in favor
5.	Mission Square Retirement Agreement	John Bellino - pending town meeting, we will put away \$25 per employee toward annual membership, looking for agreement from the select board. This will be for full time employees only, there is a separate plan for part time employee. Q: Betsy Bradley – is this an annual payment or a one-time? A: John Bellino – it will be annual (is this what John said?) Betsy Bradley made a motion to enter into the Mission Square Retirement for full time employees. Marsha Shute seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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		<p>Q: Sharon Bannon - Most retirement plans have to be vested before the employee can withdraw the money contributed by the employer – is this similar? Is it portable when an employee leaves?</p> <p>A: The town isn't contributing to the plan at all, this is just a fee so there is no vesting period. Yes it is portable for the employee</p>
6.	Liquor License approval for The Club	<p>John Bellino confirmed with law enforcement that there has been no issues, this is the 5th year for their liquor license.</p> <p>Betsy Bradley made a motion to approve the liquor license for the club, Marsha Shute seconded, all voted in favor and the motion passed..</p>
7.	Transfer of s\$360 to Stockton Springs Memorabilia revolving account	<p>Betsy Bradley – is this just the beautification fund merchandise?</p> <p>Diane Reynold – yes, it's needed to buy more mugs as they are almost sold out.</p> <p>Betsy Bradley made a motion to transfer \$360 for the memorabilia fund, Marsha Shute seconded, the motion passed unanimously.</p>
8.	Right of Way Request for CMP poles at 201-243 Green Valley Road	<p>Mark Thomas – spoke to the planning board. He needs select people approval to get poles in the town's right of way. Toupie and he had been working on this since last fall. The town indicated a form is needed, when they asked CMP for the form they said they don't have the form. He has the coordinates for where the pole will be placed. The contractor he hired does poles throughout the state, he gave the coordinates, they will be located in compliance with what's reasonable and customary for this sort of project. Will extend it from 201 to 243 Green Valley way</p> <p>Q: John Bellino – what's the reason?</p> <p>A: Mark Thomas – there are two lots that need to be powered, the trailers are sitting there and need power.</p> <p>Abram Guay – he read in our town ordinance that poles in Stockton springs require just the signature of the road manager.</p> <p>Mark Thomas – that's not what CMP says</p> <p>Abram Guay – then the ordinance would have to be changed</p> <p>George Russel indicated he doesn't have an issue with the pole placement</p> <p>Betsy makes a motion to add a two pole extension between 201-243 Green Valley Rd with the coordinates of 44 30'34.2" N, 68 54'43.9" for pole #1 and 44 30,33.6: N, 68 54'4132" W for pole 2. Seconded by Marsha Shute, voted unanimously in favor.</p>

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		<p>Q: Mark Thomas – will he be getting a letter to give to CMP? A: John – he will be getting a signed letter today with all the select board member’s signatures.</p> <p>Q: Abram – asking for an action item to review and change the ordinance. A: Betsy – we already have the action item to review all of the ordinances.</p> <p>John suggested changing the wording away from specific regulations to say, “per CMP regulation”.</p> <p>Q: Betsy Bradley - asked if CMP often changes rules? A: Vern Thompson - mentioned that they change all the time.</p>
9.	Town Policies for website discussion	<p>John Bellino provided a list with all the policies, indicating which ones he thought would make sense to post (or example we wouldn’t want to include security policies for lockout). The ones in Yellow he suggests could be made public. Link to the list: Stockton Springs Policy List in 06092025 SB meeting</p> <p>Q: Sharon Bannon – is it typical to include these online? do other towns do that? A: John Bellino – no, most towns do not Sharon Bannon– might be a good idea to list the titles of policies only?</p> <p>Abram Guay – several people have complained to him about transparency and he would suggest any policy/document/procedure be placed online unless personal and private information is included. They should be available at all times.</p> <p>John Bellino – adding them online would be a lot of work to do and will be making work for Amber. He doesn’t know the process to do it. John suggested he’d make the social media policy the first policy posted.</p> <p>Sarah Hardy – suggestion that it would be a good idea to list the complete list of policies, even if the content of all policies is not available (ex. The security policies). But when the details are not included, have a place holder and refer people to go to the town to review them in person.</p> <p>Linda Meadows – she was one of the people who previously asked for the policies to be posted, she would love to a review of the website to see if there is other things of note that could be included on the</p>

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		<p>website. For example, Peterson Park isn't mentioned anywhere as an asset of the town. She would love to add documents for the resilience committee that could be shared with residents of the town, not just agendas and minutes. Action item: Review of the town website for missing information and to see if it's possible to expand on what committees are able to share online (as well as other changes)</p> <p>Diane Reynold suggested doing this will require extra time (and budget \$) to do this review/update.</p> <p>Sarah Hardy – suggested a volunteer could do a review and maybe help with any updates</p> <p>John Bellino – said they couldn't have just anyone updating the website as there are security considerations.</p> <p>Angie Porter – reminded us that Amber's job is the tax assessor and part time so doesn't have time for that sort of work.</p> <p>John Bellino thought maybe Sadie Loyd Mudge might be taking over management of the website.</p> <p>Vern Thompson – spoke up about how social media has messed up the world. For example, mentioned how Mr. Hogan posts about accidents where he states that people have died. The fire dept as asked that he not do that but he refuses to change.</p> <p>Others agreed that social media is not helping the world.</p>
10.	Treasurers warrant and report	<p>The select board members reviewed the warrant.</p> <p>John Bellino confirmed we have enough money in our accounts to cover our requirements before the new budget is approved.</p> <p>Per Angie Porter – any bill that comes in until June 30th will still be part of the 2025 warrants effective before the new budget.</p> <p>John Bellino – when he filled out the warrant, we had more than \$600,000 in our accounts, bills only took about \$300,000 and includes the school bill so it seem highly likely that we will have enough to cover all expenses till June 30th.</p> <p>Betsy Bradley made a motion to approve the accounts payable warrant 77, seconded by Marsha Shute, motion was approved unanimously.</p>

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11.	Public Comment – Any Topic	<p>A. Public</p> <p>Susan Henkel – after the last select meetings she was very concerned that there was public interference in what she was saying. She sent a letter to the interim town manager and the new town manager about those concerns and asked for permission to read her letter at today’s meeting.</p> <p>However, she’s noticing that there is a different tone in the meeting today and considering the positive effect the guidelines are having on participation in the meeting, she no longer felt her letter needed to be read.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Linda Meadows – providing an update on the Resilience Committee, especially the Community Garden. The volunteers are moving forward with the garden. There are two hardscape plans she’d like to get feedback on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fencing, on the most visible sections (facing Route 1 and Harris Rd) plans include wooden posts, welded wire and wood top and bottom boards. On the less visible sides will be using metal posts and just welded wire as it is less expensive. Planning gates at both end of the fence. Linda asked if there was a preference for the fence to go all the way to the ballfield fence or to leave an alleyway between and George Russell said he preferred the alley between that was wide enough for a mower (60” deck).2. The grant proposal included a shed, the purpose of the shed was for storage and for water capture off the roof since there is no water at the garden plot. The committee wants to change that slightly. They would like to include a gathering spot as well. Looking at making a modified pavilion, with a small enclosed area at one side for storage but including a larger open area for a picnic table. A place where people can get out of the sun. Would have a roof and still be used for rainwater capture. <p>Q: Sharon Banon – like a shed with a porch? A: Linda Meadows – no, more a pavilion but with a divider about ¾ way back but the sides will be open.</p> <p>Q: Marsha Shute – how big? A: Linda Meadows– about the same size as the requested shed, approximately 10x16. She has talked to Stockton resident Jesse Letourneau (with the wood business across from Dollar General in Searsport) who is agreeable to work on a post and beam type structure.</p>
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	<p>George Russell – the only things he’s worried about is that in a few years folks will lose interest and public works would be left to take care of it. Folks joked about how he’d be retired before that happens.</p> <p>Q: Angie Porter – would we need a building permit? A: Linda Meadows – yes and she had spoken to Toupie about getting one. Vern Thompson mentioned how anything over 10x10 would need a permit, and he mentioned some other regulations related to how the posts are secured.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Kathy Kamzelski – now that we don’t have a code enforcement officer, she wanted to raise awareness that there is an ordinance that says if the code enforcement officer position isn’t filled, the planning board can take over those duties.</p> <p>Per John Bellino – there is one person applying via Indeed that has certifications, many surrounding communities are finding themselves in a similar situation with no code enforcer and he’s trying to come up with one full time employee shared by all the communities (Searsport, Frankfort etc.). We can hire someone who is not certified but it’s not ideal, also it is challenging finding someone willing to work just one day. The hope is that making a full time role will make it easier to fill.</p> <p>Betsy Bradley – hoped if we get into a shared situation there would be flexibility about how their time is allocated if something important were to come up in a particular town.</p> <p>Q: Sharon Bannon – how long as it been since the code enforcement officer resigned? A: Betsy: She resigned in May.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Abram Guay – something else he’s heard from people, regarding email addresses. While it’s not illegal to use private emails, it’s highly unusual for public officials to get official correspondence via personal email accounts. He suggests that select board use official email accounts.</p> <p>Betsy Bradley – conveyed that official email addresses have been made for the select board, they just haven’t begun using them yet.</p> <p>Diane Reynolds – it costs the town \$250 per year for each account.</p>
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	<p>There were comments from the audience about how high that is.</p> <p>Sarah Hardy – explained how the town leverages google services for their email and file storage and that it would be a lot more expensive to do it ourselves in hardware, software, management of the equipment and security etc. Many businesses and schools leverage google in this way. She also stressed when it was implied in a comment from the audience that employees shouldn't use personal Gmail, that this wasn't personal Gmail, it is a google hosted network specifically for the town, it's different than personal email.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Q: Jerry Altoon – does the town have a policy for cooperating with federal immigration authorities?</p> <p>A: Betsy Bradley – when Sadie comes, lets dive back into that. Action item for Sadie to address this as an agenda item for the next meeting.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Q: Marsha Shute – had a follow-up question for Linda, how many beds are there in the garden?</p> <p>A: Linda Meadows – there are 9 that are 12” high, 2 that are 24” high intended for people with restricted physical abilities, and one wheelchair accessible bed that is on legs and allows a person to tuck right under when seated. There are two beds still available for adoption by individuals. She'd like to announce that if the two aren't claimed by the end of this week it will be taken over by the group for communal planting for the Give/Take program.</p> <p>Marsha Shute – received a suggestion, keep the availability of rentable plots small and a waiting list because then people are more likely to keep up with the care of their beds in order to be sure to keep them year to year.</p> <p>Q: Sharon – is there an abandonment policy?</p> <p>A: Linda – The garden committee does have rules about garden maintenance that everyone will need to adhere to and the beds are assigned every year though if someone wants to keep theirs then they will have priority.</p> <p>B. Select Board</p> <p>Betsy Bradley – on behalf of the Community Builders organization she wanted to remind folks about Harbor Days and the town's Street Dance event. She would like to get both into the next newsletter since the first event is July 1st.</p>
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		<p>Working with the harbor committee on the dock grant inspection.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>The select board should have been notified by Amy Drinkwater on the paramedicine grant. They got the grant.</p> <p>Q: Sharon Bannon – What is this about? A: They will work with community members who suffer from chronic health conditions to avoid emergency call outs.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>John Bellino – the town will also soon be working on getting bids for the door replacement and RFP for the solar install on the town office roof.</p> <p>John has also begun talking to the DOT on the reduction in speed limit on Rt 1 between the 1A area and the town line with Searsport and thinks we should be asking for a crosswalk at Harris Rd. which would require a speed limit change.</p> <p>Folks commenting thought the limit would have to be at least 35mph for a cross walk.</p> <p>Vern Thompson recalls how many years ago the town has been unsuccessful at getting a decreased speed. But maybe will have more success now with the ball field and the community garden at this location.</p> <p>Q: Abram Guay – John didn’t take the information Abram had accumulated on the reduced speed, he has specific information about the lower speed limit. Why? A: John Bellino – he has had a lot going on and only has 3 more days on the job and encouraged Abram to work with Sadie. He thought she actually might have worked on the crosswalk in Belfast. Abram will reach out to her.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Susan Henkel – wanted to say that John has been wonderful as an interim town manager and how thankful she is for him. There was a round of applause and many people spoke up about how appreciated he is.</p>
12.	Executive Session: 1 M.R.S.A ss (405) (6) (A) Code Enforcement position	Betsy Bradley made a motion to move into executive session at 9:05am, seconded by Marsha Shute, the motion was approved unanimously.

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		The board came out of executive session at 10:04am
13.	Adjourn	Betsy Bradly made a motion to adjourn at 10:05am, seconded by Marsha Shute and passed by unanimous vote.

Open Action item list:

Date raised	Action	Assignment	Status
1/27/25	<p>Create warrants and plan for June town meeting:</p> <p>1. Broadband, next phase (this will be June meeting)</p> <p>4/14- Angie mentioned that we may need to hold the meeting outside as long as weather permits since the crowd will be very large (for solar discussion).</p> <p>Can we also use the upstairs? How would we broadcast to all attendees?</p> <p>Also need to figure out where chairs are, or get more?</p> <p>Do we want to go with the assumption that it's outside unless it's bad weather. In covid we had people in cars and used flags for voting.</p> <p>As of 5/12 this is still in process, will be worked on this week with goal of getting it done 2 weeks prior to going to print (for next meeting review the warrant at select meeting, get to board members electronically before next meeting).</p> <p>Logistics: If the weather's good we will do it outside, may not have enough chairs.</p> <p>We will have microphones for the moderator and question askers. Only 144 people sitting or 202 people standing capacity.</p> <p>Need more chairs – to be discussed this week.</p>	<p>John Bellino and select board for the warrant.</p> <p>Towns report is Diane.</p>	Pending.
2/10/25	<p>Since the cancelation of Tally Ho purchase, the \$140,000 needs to be placed in the correct firehouse building account (separate from the fire station equipment account)</p>	John Bellino	In process

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	<p>4/14 – it was voted to be taken out of the unappropriated fund. So, it will have to be on the warrant for the town meeting to go from the unappropriated fund to the fire building capital reserve account.</p> <p>5/12 – this will be included in the warrant, Diane has suggestion for how this should be written.</p>		
2/10/2025	<p>Bring the list of properties (tax forfeiture, gifted, town-owned) to be sold by the town for review at a future select board meeting.</p> <p>Will be presented to the board when it's closer to the town meeting – in July.</p>	John Bellino	
3/10/25 evening	<p>John will see if we have a place for policies to be stored online and if so will post the “keep the heat on” policy on the town website.</p> <p>4/14 – not yet defined. John will check with Amber to add one.</p> <p>5/12 – a review of policies needs to be done to see which are appropriate for sharing and which are internal use only.</p> <p>6/9 – john shared the list of policies with recommendations on what would be best to post online. There was discussion about how some policies could be posted while others with sensitive information could be listed and a reader could be referred to the town to get specific info in person.</p>	John Bellino	In process
4/28/25	<p>Related to non-emergency use of generator: Action – take up the Noise ordinance before the June meeting and update it so that it meets state standards, also look at other towns. John assigned. Consider making an ordinance that limits long term use of generators for non-emergency use</p> <p>5/12 – this would need to be worked on during the year and take into effect in 2026. In the meantime, the specific issue has been resolved. This will</p>	John Bellino	

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	remain on this action item list for at least a year till 2026 town meeting		
4/28/25	Set up a speed board on Church St John took action to speak to Darren about setting that up	John Bellino	
4/28/25	Extending the 40 MPH area on Rt 1 from the 1A intersection back to the Searsport town line. Action John Bellino– put this on the next agenda. (May 12) On the agenda, still to do. 5/27 update: John has been in touch with folks from the state and has a clearer idea about what needs to be done. Still working on it. 6/9 – John has begun working with DOT about this. Will transition to Sadie.	John Bellino	In process
5/12/25	Related to a check for \$1000 from Acadian Seaplants, why have they sent the check? The town has never gotten one before (at least as far as can be remembered). John Bellino to talk to harbor committee. He will also call the company or neighboring towns who they also work with. There was a suggestion that perhaps the company should have been paying for the privilege of harvesting from our town’s shores.	John Bellino	
6/9/2025	Review ordinance related to electric pole placement. The ordinance indicates that there is a form to supply to CMP but CMP has changed their process. Suggest that as part of a needed review of all ordinances that this is include. Suggestion is to simply refer to “according to current CMP regulations” or something similar since CMP rules are frequently changing.	Sadie Loyd Mudge	
6/9/2025	Select board should use the official email accounts to do their business vs using personal email.	Sadie Loyd Mudge	
6/9/2025	Review of the town website to make sure no missing items (example Peterson Park), also would it be possible to expand on what committees can make assessable on the site for public education – example the resilience	Sadie Loyd Mudge	

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	committee would like to post educational materials beyond the agenda and meeting minutes.		
6/9/2025	What is the town's policy for cooperation of our law enforcement officers with immigration enforcement? Add to the agenda on 6/23.	Sadie Loyd Mudge	
6/9/2025	Action item: define policies and procedures to accommodate new laws pertaining to foreclosure due to unpaid taxes, for example defining the process whereby the town would set up a payment plan for repayment – which would allow homeowners to remain in their home as long as they are adhering to the repayment terms	Sadie Loyd Mudge	

Completed Action items:

Date raised	Action	Assignment	Status
3/10/25 Evening	John Bellino will post the updated draft of the Solar Project Moratorium to it to the website. It has to be available 10 days before the public hearing, it will need to be ready by Wednesday of this week.	John Bellino	complete
3/10/2025 morning	Budget action: John to ask George about how they came up with this number for portable potties. 4/14 Still need to confirm but John thought it was done	John Bellino	Close – this is correct in the budget. Confirmed at the 5/12/25 meeting.
3/10/2025 morning	Budget action: Amber – need to add a line to the budget for earned paid leave. She will work with John on that 4/14 – just for the ambulance that needs that, john is checking with Amy to see if that's already in her budget.	John Bellino and Amber Poulin	Complete, confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting
4/14/25	Amber – is going to talk to the auditor for how to handle this money in/out like a general ledger account for the community garden. She will let the John know what the auditor says	Amber	Complete, confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting

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4/14/25	Action item for John to check insurance for the lot where the community garden will be built – could there be an increase in rates?	John Bellino	Complete confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting
4/14/25	In the context of the personnel policy review John said he would have to check with Amy to see if the EMT budget included funds to pay for both paid time off and replacement workers when someone must take time off.	John Bellino	Answer is Yes. Complete. confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting
4/28/25	Assign funds from Waldo County ARPA Action item: for John to assign the funds at a future meeting. This has to do with the 20,000 – it will be put toward items in the next year budget for front door, phone system and Trio municipal software.	John Bellino	complete confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting
4/28/25	Related to non-emergency use of a generator: Toupie Rooney to visit the renters. She will go next week, to see if they move out on May 1 st . She will take a police officer.	Toupie Rooney	Complete – the renters moved out so there is no longer an issue with the generator. confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting
4/14/25	Susan Henkel – last year about this time she wondered if we could have one of our school board representatives attend this meeting. At the time they couldn't because they worked during the day. Now that we have evening meetings, Chris Downing would like to come if the select board would invite him. John to work on getting him to join an evening meeting soon 5/12 – john has been in touch with the superintendent, they are aware of our schedule. Betsy – have they been invited to a specific meeting? Sadie – can we ask the Stockton school board member. She and Diane suggest specially they are specifically asked for a specific meeting. John suggests we have a regular meeting with a member of the school board. Betsy suggests	John Bellino	Completed with 5/27 meeting

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	making sure there is an agenda item for their attendance so folks can attend. The school budget is increasing \$400,000. John will reach out to set that up.		
4/28/25	Reach out to Seaboard Bank to see if the interest on our money market account can be increased	John Bellino	Complete in 5/27 meeting John mentioned that the bank said the rate was the rate, no changes allowed.
5/12/25	Regarding getting a grant from MCOG about funding for the comprehensive plan John to attend the next resilience committee meeting to talk about this more.	John Bellino	Complete, John joined the 5/20 meeting.