

Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes

June 23, 2025 Meeting

Attendees:

Select Board Members Present	Elizabeth Lenharr (Liz Lenharr) Marsha Shute – acting chair Sadie Loyd Mudge – Town Manager
Select Board Members Absent	Betsy Bradley
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	Marsha Shute called meeting to order at 6:02pm roll call – see attendance above
2.	Adjustment to the agenda	None
3.	Approval of minutes from June 9th, 2025	No printouts were available for the select people to review so this will be considered at the next select board meeting.
4.	Open to the public	Sadie Loyd Mudge specified that she’s going to formalize how the meetings are conducted going forward. The select board wants to hear from the public but not throughout the meeting, please speak only during the public comments agenda topic. There are two public comments sections so that folks who cannot stay for the whole meeting may speak, and folks who arrive late can also speak, or react to what’s happened in the meeting. Otherwise, the meeting is for the select board to conduct their business. Sadie Loyd Mudge mentioned that the select board can be contacted via email. Q: Susan Henkel – the select board started doing 6pm meetings, will that continue? A: Sadie Loyd Mudge – it was her understanding that we have to switch to only night meetings in August. Betsy’s schedule and Sadie’s schedule necessitate that.

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		<p>Q: Susan Henkel– will the calendar on the town website and the notification page get updated?</p> <p>A: Sadie Loyd Mudge – she will talk to Amber about getting that updated.</p> <p>Q: Susan Henkel– what was the outcome of the school budget?</p> <p>A: Diane Reynolds– In Stockton Springs, the vote failed for the budget but passed for keeping it as a referendum</p> <p>A: Jerry Altoon – he spoke to the superintendent today, he said there will be an open meeting to discuss the budget then it will be brought to the towns.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Linda Meadows – wants to give an update on the community garden. The garden is created and all planted, next working on the fencing. They are really interested in engaging with the public more and is considering creating a Facebook/Instagram pages for that specifically. Sadie Loyd Mudge – she will add that to the next agenda for consideration and approval by the select board.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Q: Unidentified resident – was blindsided that the referendum included the solar buyout and the increase in the select board. Why? There wasn't a petition to get those issues added as a referendum, he thought that there was supposed to be 200 signatures. He indicated that he got that info from an attorney.</p> <p>A: Marsha Shute – she mentioned that the vote was very close and there were people asking for their inclusion on the referendum.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Linda Meadows – regarding the community garden, really trying to get people involved and quickly. If they can't get the groups created, could there be something else on the website?</p> <p>Sadie Loyd Mudge – she will speak to Amber during business hours about if there is a way to do that. She also stressed that one thing she wants to change going forward about these meetings is making decision making more formalized and we should not expect the select board to make decisions on the spot.</p> <p>Amber Poulin spoke up that she can put something on the home page directing to people to the resilience page where some additional links have already been added.</p> <p>~~~~~</p>
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		<p>Q: Susan Henkel – if we want the select board to make a decision, do we need to send it to the town manager/select board in advance?</p> <p>A: Sadie Loyd Mudge – yes, it can be brought to her. We do need to manage what’s on the agenda so that effective work is done.</p>
5.	Town Manager Report and Update	<p>The manager report will be given near the beginning of each meeting to let people and the select board know about what’s going on.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working on a new meeting schedule to help us be more efficient 2. Select board emails need to be set up now that they are available, that’s how Sadie will communicate with them 3. Her first few weeks have been crazy. She’s been working well with the staff and they’ve been very helpful. She stressed how much she appreciates how thoughtful they are. 4. She has been meeting with residents and staff continually since she started, these meetings have been good but has mean that she can’t focus on other tasks of the job. In the coming weeks she needs to slow those meeting so the work can be done. 5. The engagement of the community is good, not all towns have that. She is hopeful that she will help diffuse some of the tension that we’ve been experiencing recently within the town especially as it pertains to town operations. 6. John Bellino also mentioned that if the town needs help catching up on work he could be made available for a few hours each week.
6.	Meeting Times	<p>Sadie Loyd Mudge: She is proposing that we move any further meetings to the 6pm timeframe, no more morning meetings.</p> <p>Marsha Shute makes a motion to move meeting times effective immediately. Liz Lenharr seconded, motion passed unanimously.</p>
7.	Select Board reports or updates	<p>Marsha Shute – Some upcoming events happening in town are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July 25th (Friday night) is the Community Builders annual street dance. There’s a DJ, hotdogs and pizza are available by donation only (pay what you can) so everyone should come and feel welcome. 2. July 26th – Harbor days. As usual there will be strawberry shortcake and cotton candy, and the historical society will be there with food and selling books. The Mason’s will be doing BBQ. Pastor James will be there and he’s looking to get a bounce house. There will be kayaks available to use. A pirate ship ride and treasure to be found on the beach.

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		<p>3. The Stockton Harbor Sailing Center on July 27th will be having the lobster/ziti dinner – there is a cost to the dinner but the proceeds go to the kid’s sailing program.</p> <p>4. July 12th – the Community Garden is also having a kick-off gathering for the community to raise awareness and support of the garden so that more folks will participate and enjoy what’s offered there.</p> <p>5. July 17th – Resilience Committee will be having a community outreach to discuss the outcome of the vulnerability study performed in conjunction with Midcoast Council of Governments.</p> <p>Liz Lenharr – is going to be serving on Waldo County Budget Committee again. All the towns have representatives that help negotiate the county budget – the county budget does affect our taxes so it’s good to have a rep to look out for us. This is a multi-month process.</p> <p>Marsha Shute – is attending the HOBA (Head of the Bay) group as a representative of Stockton Springs. They are trying to get together a brochure to bring awareness about all the nice things that are between Belfast and Bucksport so that folks don’t just drive through on the way to Bar Harbor/Acadia and Downeast.</p> <p>Q: George Russell– when does community builders need the sign put up for the street dance? And the date needs to be corrected to the current year’s date before that happens. A: Marsha Shute – three weeks in advance. She will speak to Betsy Bradley about getting that to George.</p>
8.	Certificate of Settlement and Certificate of Recommitment	<p>The select board needs to sign a document that John Bellino no longer accepts taxes. In that document the designees will be Amber Poulin and Sadie Loyd Mudge going forward.</p> <p>The select members added their signatures.</p>
9.	Code Enforcement appointment	<p>Marsha Shute made a motion to accept Garrett Lower as the new code enforcement officer, LPI and e911 addressing agent. Seconded by Liz Lenharr. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Sadie Loyd Mudge – John Bellino recommended him. Sadie already spoke to him about his approach to the job and indicated he is very much in tune. Toupie has also met with him.</p> <p>He will be in this Wednesday though he will normally try to be there on Tuesdays.</p>

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10.	Solar Workshop Committee appointments	<p>Sadie provided the select board with a list of all open committee members and the new solar ordinance committee. Provided guidance that the board can make a single motion to approve as listed once they have reviewed the list.</p> <p>The list simply included all the current members whose terms were expiring with the assumption that if they didn't want to be on the committee, they could quit after.</p> <p>Sarah Hardy spoke up because the resilience committee has changed their bylaws related to the number of alternates and members and didn't know this would be on the agenda for committees other than the solar ordinance committee.</p> <p>Linda Meadows mentioned that she had talked to John Bellino previously and he said that the only people that would be on the list would be people who submitted paperwork requesting to be retained. She expressed concern that we'd approve someone to a committee that doesn't want to be and does not include people that did want to be included.</p> <p>Sadie – given the lack of clarity about the process, in the future an email could go out to the chairs asking them to provide the list of the members who shall be appointed going forward.</p> <p>Sarah Hardy suggested, can we have the select board approve the list except the resilience committee?</p> <p>Sadie Loyd Mudge suggested the to approve the solar committee only now and then go back to the other committees to get confirmation of their membership, approving them at the next meeting.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the solar ordinance committee members as written, seconded by Liz Lenharr. All in favor.</p>
11.	Spectrum contract for internet	<p>Amber Poulin can sign the contract instead of the select board because the budget was already appropriated at town meeting. There is a question about signing a three year contract given that broadband may be coming so there will be some additional research about shortening the contract or what might be the process if the contract could be terminated.</p>
12.	Funding request form – due date extension	<p>Sadie Loyd Mudge – current policy indicates that if a community group wants to request a donation before the budget season, they have to get their request in before January 1st. John Bellino and the select board thought that was too soon. A new date was proposed in March</p>

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		<p>1st. Nonprofits can submit any time before March 1st and the clerks will hold thee request till 3/1.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to change the deadline for funding requests from January 1st to March 1st. Seconded by Liz Lenharr. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
13.	Treasurers warrant and report	<p>The select board members reviewed the warrant.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the accounts payable warrant 80, seconded by Liz Lenharr, motion was approved unanimously.</p>
14.	Open to the public	<p>Margaret Laing – wanted to get on the record about what a wonderful thing George Russell has done with the Dog Lending library.</p> <p>George Russell mentioned that it will be on the national news that week.</p>
15.	Adjourn	<p>Marsha Shute made a motion to adjourn at 6:45pm, seconded by Liz Lenharr and passed by unanimous vote.</p>

Open Action item list:

Date raised	Action	Assignment	Status
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>	Sadie Loyd Mudge	
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</p>	Sadie Loyd Mudge	In process

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	<p>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>		
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 remain on this action item list for at least a year till 2026 town meeting</p>	Sadie Loyd Mudge	
4/28/25	<p>Set up a speed board on Church St John took action to speak to Darren about setting that up</p>	Sadie Loyd Mudge	
4/28/25	<p>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.</p> <p>6/9 – John has begun working with DOT about this. Will transition to Sadie.</p>	Sadie Loyd Mudge	In process
5/12/25	<p>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.</p> <p>There was a suggestion that perhaps the company should have been paying for the privilege of harvesting from our town’s shores.</p>	Sadie Loyd Mudge	

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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 committee would like to post educational materials beyond the agenda and meeting minutes.	Sadie Loyd Mudge	
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	
6/23/2025	With the decision to move all select board meetings to evening meeting times, the web page calendar and any notifications about schedule need to be updated.	Sadie Loyd Mudge to work with Amber Poulin to get that done.	

Completed Action items:

Date raised	Action	Assignment	Status
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 making sure there is an agenda item for their	John Bellino	Completed with 5/27 meeting

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	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.
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>	Completed, the town meeting was on 6/14/25

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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> <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>	John Bellino	Completed, this was include in the town meeting on 6/14/25
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