

## Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes

July 14, 2025 Meeting

Attendees:

Select Board Members Present	Betsy Bradley Elizabeth (Liz) Lenharr Marsha Shute - Chairperson Sadie Lloyd Mudge – Town Manager
Select Board Members Absent	
Recording Secretary	Sarah Hardy
Community members	Approximately 12 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.

#	Agenda	Notes
1.	Roll Call: Call to Order	Marsha Shute called meeting to order at 6:00 pm  roll call – see attendance above
2.	Adjustment to the agenda	Sadie Lloyd Mudge requested the select board to consider and sign the liquor license for Just Barb’s at tonight’s meeting.  Marsha Shute made a motion to amend the agenda to add renewal of Just Barb’s liquor license. Seconded by Betsy Bradley. The motion passed unanimously.
3.	Approval of minutes from June 9, 2025 and June 23, 2025	No changes were suggested for the minutes.  Motion to accept the minutes for June 9th was made by Marsha Shute, seconded by Betsy Bradley, and approved unanimously.  Motion to accept the minutes for June 23rd was made by Marsha Shute, seconded by Liz Lenharr, and approved unanimously. Note that Betsy Bradley recused herself because she was not at the 6/23 meeting.
4.	Open to the public	none
5.	Town Manager Report and Update	Sadie Lloyd Mudge has been very busy but she’s starting to get more done. One thing that’s clear to her is that the municipal budget is underfunded by a lot. For example, because of George Russel’s genius idea about the dog library, there has been an influx of visitor which is impacting the porta potty usage. With George’s input, Sadie agreed to put another porta potty for one month at a cost of \$400. There is no room in the budget for this expenditure. The budget is too flat, it should be able to absorb an odd \$400 charge. We will see that problem again related to a Spectrum bill for internet which is increasing by \$20 a month and there isn’t money for that either... need to have a budget that can allow the town to take care of itself. After examining the overall budget, it appears that the ambulance budget is quite healthy and she was surprised at how highly it was funded so is looking at how to better balance department budgets. This is an issue that she will be bringing up throughout the year so that next year’s budget can absorb costs better.

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	<p>She has also been working with the many committees. We have very busy committees and she's been setting standards for when there are contracts and budgets that there must be an employee involved.</p> <p>She toured roads with George Russell and the washout on Sandy point is alarming because it's starting to erode onto personal property. There must be an engineering study for how to fix that properly; George has been bandaied-ing it as best as he can but an engineering plan is required because of the twist and turns of the culvert. She will have to seek funding from a grant because there is no money for the study.</p> <p>Q: Betsy Bradley – is this a case where some money can come out of the unassigned budget? A: Sadie Lloyd Mudge -yes, that can happen but in general the town has been too reliant on doing that, and withdrawals from the unassigned fund should only occur in an emergency and really the budget itself should have contingency built in.</p> <p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge talked to Amber Poulin – Stockton has a healthy unassigned fund but we need to put limits on its use so that it doesn't dip too low.</p> <p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge also had a mini heart attack because of Sandy Point. It is state land though the town has maintained it. We haven't informed the state about changes that have been made (adding/maintaining trails etc.). It is also unclear where the state property line is vs private property, especially where the Brooks's family has donated some property.</p> <p>Q: Betsy Bradley - but doesn't the state give us some money to maintain it? A: Sadie Lloyd Mudge was unaware of any funding from the state but will investigate.</p> <p>She thinks there is a lot of potential for the town to take total ownership. Maybe bring ice skating back on beaver pond, making a picnic spot etc. There are a lot of ideas.</p> <p>Betsy Bradley mentioned the erosion problem. Sadie Lloyd Mudge also mentioned the old cement foundation/rebar being a safety issue. George Russell would like to rip it out but that would create big permitting issues to work through – would need a grant too because the work will be extensive.</p> <p>George Russell and Sadie Lloyd Mudge have been talking about a public works position that needs to be filled. Everyone who works on public works is potentially nearing the end of their tenure in 3 years or so. The town saves a lot of money because of how capable the current employees are so we need to do capacity planning/training for the next generation. Not only are they experienced, but they are going to be good trainers.</p>
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		<p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge reaching out to MDOT about the Rt1 and Harris Rd intersection to see if there's any way to slow down traffic in that area. There's a chance that traffic will never get slowed down because of how the road has been built. If there were businesses and street parking then the limit would be 30 miles but it's going to be a hard sell to get it decreased.</p> <p>Q: Betsy Bradley – would it be possible to create a drop down on the other side of the church street bridge for pedestrians?</p> <p>Q: Marsha Shute – do we know how many people actually try to cross Rt 1?</p> <p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge mentioned that sometimes it's actually better to have a truly unsafe road speed because then pedestrians and bikers are more cautious. If changes are made, which gives the impression that it's safer, people will be at more risk because cars/trucks actually won't slow down. While it's unlikely to change, it's come up so often by town residents it's worth exploring. She will report back when she has something to share.</p>
6.	Select Board reports or updates	<p>Betsy Bradley – mentioned that the garbage can at the harbor is still missing. Sadie Lloyd Mudge mentioned she'll speak to the harbor master about it and Betsy asked while she's at it can she ask for some decrepit lobster traps to be removed so kids aren't hurt.</p> <p>Liz Lenharr – nothing to report</p> <p>Marsha Shute – reiterated the reminder from last meeting about the upcoming street dance, lobster bake and harbor days on July 26-27.</p>
7.	Elect select Board Chair for the Year	<p>The select board has been passing off the responsibility of meeting Chair from month to month. Usually, a chair has been named by seniority but Betsy is in her final year (won't be renewing) so didn't want to do it. Marsha has volunteered for chair.</p> <p>Betsy Bradley made a motion to make Marsha Shute the chair, seconded by Liz Lenharr. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Sadie clarified that it doesn't need to be by seniority. Chairperson will be revisited each year.</p>
8.	Penobscot Realty Trust Property, Lois Eck Buyback	<p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge explained that Ms. Eck reached out and would like to pay her back taxes and get her property back. This is not via a tax abatement.</p> <p>Per Diane Reynold - The property is accessed from Cape Jellison, 23 acres behind the houses on the left. She will work with Amber Poulin to determine how to calculate taxes that didn't accumulate during the time the property was town owned so that a total price can be determined. Also, because this can be done by clerks during normal office operations there is no additional fees required.</p> <p>Guidance was provided that the select board doesn't need to approve based on a specific amount, just to allow it in principle.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to allow Lois Eck to reclaim her property on Map R4 lot 184 on Main street for back taxes, interest, and any other</p>

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		<p>applicable fees. The motion was seconded by Betsy Bradley and unanimously approved.</p> <p>The board signed the contract.</p>
9.	Committee appointments	<p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge provided a list of the residents who will be considered for town committees (see Appendix) appointments.</p> <p>Betsy Bradley – does this mean that all committees are filled in? Diane Reynolds – there are still some vacancies and she would like to see a request in the newsletter asking for additional volunteers.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the committee assignments as read, minus Don Smith, seconded by Betsy Bradley, and unanimously approved.</p> <p>The select members signed the appointment paperwork at the end of the meeting.</p>
10.	Code Enforcement update and next steps	<p>We had a code enforcement officer for 1 week then he gave his notice because he got a full time job offer. He is very graciously helping on weekends and evenings to get people permits.</p> <p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge changed the job listing and posted it in 4-5 places. It indicates that we'd be willing to share someone with nearby towns to share costs, and that it would be 1-2 days because there's too much to do in a single day. This is also an issue with budget, that doesn't give flexibility in hiring.</p> <p>There was discussion about how there's too much work for 1 day, and residents have expressed frustration about limited availability. The work schedule could be partial days across several days to increase coverage. Also, if it's job shared between towns, the person could flex in one town or another as needed. We also would consider someone who was in process of training and as long as they completed their test in the first year it would be ok. This could open up the candidate pool.</p> <p>Sadie noted that there's a lot of building going on so perhaps in the future we could even support a full time position.</p>
11.	Resilience Committee Updates	<p>a. Engagement accounts (Instagram, etc.) approval The community garden group would like to create a Facebook/Instagram account specifically for the garden. It will be taken control of by members of the committee.</p> <p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge – offered that Facebook can be a negative space so she suggests doing whatever needs to be done to keep it from being negative. Sadie also suggested that the select board should include a provision that they can provide oversight of the account and could even decide to shut it down.</p>

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	<p>Marsha made a motion to create an Instagram/Facebook account for the community garden, with the provision that the select board has oversight. Seconded and approved unanimously.</p> <p>b. Community garden pavilion – needs a vote Linda Meadow explained the change in plans to add pavilion instead of a shed. Sadie Lloyd Mudge mentioned that George Russell wants the pavilion moved 5 feet to make it easier to mow around. Linda Meadow reviewed the garden designed and explained how the pavilion will eventually be inside the permanent fence so wouldn't need to be mowed around. The gardeners have created a smaller fenced area for smaller planting area in year one. Marsha Shute was concerned about the visual of the water barrels. Linda Meadows and Sarah Hardy explained that the plan is to have the rain collection from the pavilion roof and these could be concealed by a wall on one side where tool storage or bulletin board would also go. Jesse Letourneau, the pavilion manufacturer was also in attendance and shared the design that he's considering. 16' tall, the size is bigger so that picnic tables can better fit. His intention is to make it pretty and chunky so that town is proud of it. There will be a floor, it will be able to support 3-40 people. The posts will be 8x8 posts. There will be lots of bracing so it will be unaffected by wind. It will be fastened to cement Sono tubes which are required by code enforcement. Q: Sadie Lloyd Mudge – what's the final footprint? A: Jesse Letourneau– 14x16. Q: Denise Dakins– what's the timeline? A: Jesse Letourneau – joked he hopes it passes because he's already started cutting. His goal is to have it done by August 1<sup>st</sup>. He realizes it's an intense deadline but doable. He explained it's going to be made of hemlock which is bug and rot resistant. It should last a long time. He will use a small excavator to assist but it shouldn't affect the grounds. It will take several days to build.</p> <p>Q: Betsy Bradley – is it in the budget of the grant? A: Linda Meadows – yes. A: Jesse Letourneau– it's a \$4000 budget, normally something this size about \$8000-9000 for him to do and sells for \$15,000 but he thoughts this is a good project so he's willing to do it for the grant fund amount.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the building of a pavilion. Seconded by Betsy Bradley and approved by unanimous vote.</p> <p>c. Vulnerability study update Linda Meadows explained that the committee went through a process to identify five at-risk sites, MGOC wrote a summary which she has summarized for the select board. Included in the vulnerability study services from MCOG, is writing a grant.</p>
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		<p>Of the five sites, the option that the committee wants to pursue for grant funding is to deal with the erosion on Lighthouse road which is putting the roadway at risk. Suggesting to start with getting a geotechnical study to relocate the road. MCOG recommends we go after a Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund grant.</p> <p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge mentioned that she has reached out to an engineering firm to get an estimate for an initial study estimate.</p> <p>Q: Betsy Bradley – is the goal for the grant to cover the cost of the engineering plan?</p> <p>A: Linda Meadows - yes.</p> <p>Sadie – there is no decision/motion required on this.</p> <p>The Vulnerability study summary is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>There was discussion about the Green Valley Rd culvert and beavers were discussed.</p>
12.	Spectrum Contract for Internet	<p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge and Amber Poulin have been working on getting better internet service for the town. Because broadband it coming in the next year to 1.5 years we don't want to get into a long term contract so Sadie has recommended a 2 year contract which would allow us to move to broadband, which is usually less expensive. The shorter the contract the more expensive it is. A 2 year contract is only \$20 more and still allows us to cancel the contract without penalty.</p> <p>Kevin Keely – gave some info about the broadband project. Unitil/Direct communications are implementing the service – they have to have it in place by October 2026 for 1100 underserved households. They are going to put a shack near the town hall to serve as the hub so he thinks it won't be a problem for the town to get hooked up at that time.</p> <p>Q: Betsy Bradley – is this Spectrum or Consolidated that we're signing the 2 year contract?</p> <p>A: Sadie Lloyd Mudge– Spectrum. They are getting rid of Consolidated because it's insufficient.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to recommend to approve the 2 year contract with Spectrum, seconded by Betsy Bradley, motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Saide Lloyd Mudge has also asked Amber to bundle in the phone which has also been sketchy.</p>
13.	Liquor application Just Barbs	<p>Sadie Lloyd Mudge-assuming the board is ok with it she distributed the license for signature and the members signed the documents.</p>
14.	Treasurers warrant and report	<p>The select board members reviewed the warrant.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the accounts payable warrants 3, 82, and 83, seconded by Liz Lenharr, motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>The select board signed the warrants.</p>

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15.	RSU 20 budget update review	<p>Representing RSU 20: Denise Dakin, the school board chair Kris Braga, the Stockton representative to the school board Dr. Laura Miller, the new superintendents</p> <p>Denise Dakins– because the budget didn’t pass they found ways to decrease it. With the two cuts 3.03M for Searsport and 3.07M for Stockton.</p> <p>A meeting will be held on 7/23 at 7pm at high school cafeteria. There will be a vote at that meeting, and if it passes then there will be another referendum for voting in both towns.</p> <p>The folks provided printed documents in explanation for the changes. Cuts included an administrator (vice principal) in the elementary school, it cut an intervention specialist. The dean of students and superintendent will be acting as a floater in the schools to try to make up for loss of the vice principal.</p> <p>There are some things being planned to promote the school. Including involving the towns more. Dr Miller will be very vocal and wants the towns people to feel a part of the school community and really making sure people are aware of their successes. There will also be some changes to the curriculum.</p> <p>Jerry Altoon – Since Marsha and co opened the door after jokes about signing documents earlier in the meeting... Are the kids taught cursive? Dr Miller - Keyboarding has replaced cursive as the standard. ELA is the first curriculum that will be tackled. But it doesn’t mean that cursive isn’t still necessary.</p> <p>The Kris Braga shared that she has very high hopes for the future of the schools.</p>
16.	Open to the public	<p>Sarah Hardy – can the select board share info about whether we will see additional select board members elected in November as was specified in the June 2025 referendum? Sadie Lloyd Mudge - the increase is not coming in November. It can’t be filled till the June 2026 town meeting. John Bellino learned from the lawyers that it couldn’t be done because there’s a statute that determines it must be done in June.</p> <p>Q: Betsy Bradley – so are we a 5 person board or a 3 person board now? A: Sadie – we are a 3 person board and so follow the quorum rules for 3 people.</p> <p>Kevin Kelly – he is county commissioner for district 2, including Stockton Springs. He filled the seat of Bill Storey who passed away. He is liaison to sheriff, benefits, union reps, risk committee, and is cochair of legislative committee. The budget is 14M, there has to be changes in medical benefits because self-insurance is not feasible. The website will be changing next</p>

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		<p>year to make it more searchable and transparent. Liz Lenharr sits on the budget committee representing Stockton Springs. He is pressing for an 18 month budget instead of a 12 month budget. Currently we have to finance a period of time between when budgets are approved and when the money is available, during that time the county has to finance the money and last year it cost \$300,000 to finance it so he's trying to limit that expense. The State evaluations have increased so that's impacting the budget which has increased. He plans to join select board meetings occasionally for updates and he encourages folks to reach out to him with questions. He's trying to keep the numbers down but hiring salaries are a lot higher and that's impacting budgets too.</p> <p>Q: Jerry Altoon – regarding chair of the select board, is there a plan in place for succession if she is unavailable? A: Betsy Bradley – the other select board members just fill in for her if she's gone.</p>
17.	Adjourn	Marsh made a motion to adjourn at 7:31pm, seconded by Betsy and passed by unanimous vote.

Appendix:

Committee Appointments Term Ending 6/30/2028

### **Board of Assessment Review**

None

### **Cemetery Committee**

Charles Smith

Pat Curley

### **Planning Board**

Kyle Braga – Chair

Blaine Jones

Scott Pace – Alternate

### **Recycling and Energy Committee**

Beth Smith – Chair

Charles Smith – Alternate

Martha Stamp

### **Shellfish Committee**

Don Smith

Jennifer Skala

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

Patricia Twum

### **Harbor Committee**

Travis Wyman (6/30/2026) \*

Sheri Clark

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**Resiliency Committee**

Serena Cole

Nadine Lysiak – Alternate (6/30/2026) \*

Elizabeth Haynes – Alternate

\*New to committee