

Town of Stockton Springs
Select Board – Morning Meeting
January 6, 2022
Minutes

1. Roll Call: Call to Order

Mr. Shute called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Present: Darren Shute, Betsy Bradley, Marsha Shute.

Also Present: Mac Smith – Town Manager; Bonita Brooks and Lorna Russell of the Stockton Springs Parks and Recreation Committee; Jim Nichols and Carl Keicher, who volunteer at the park.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. Meeting with Parks Committee/Future of Americans with Disabilities Act Trail at Sandy Point Beach Park

The area of ADA trail was discussed, which is the area from the public bathroom, along the old railroad spur, and then both to a lookout point at the end of the railroad spur and to the wooden removeable boardwalk that leads directly to the sand of the beach.

Mr. Nichols advocated keeping the current ADA trail as handicapped-accessible. He said the area has a large older population and the trail is very valuable. It was acknowledged that much work had to be done to keep the ADA trail truly ADA-compliant. Ms. Russell discussed the importance of the boardwalk in keeping the ADA trail compliant. She said that having a truly accessible beach was unique. It was reported that Stockton resident Karen MacDonald, who had helped build the original trail system, had advised that to restore the ADA trail to true ADA compliance would most likely necessitate a grant in order to cover the cost.

There was discussion of the need for a field day with volunteers to maintain the rest of the trail system, and other concerns about the rest of the Sandy Point trail system aside from the ADA trail.

There was discussion of placing information at the park's information board regarding how people could make a donation to the maintenance of the park and its trail system. Other ideas for revenue for park upkeep were discussed.

It was decided that the Town Manager would reach out to the Maine Conservation Corps to see if that group would provide an assessment of the work necessary to return the ADA trail back to ADA compliance. It was further decided that as soon as information from that consultation was available, the Select Board and Parks Committee would meet again for further discussion and possible action.

4. Minutes: 12/16/21 Morning Meeting and Workshop

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2021 Morning Meeting and Workshop as presented.

5. Accounts Payable/Payroll Warrants

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve Accounts Payable Warrants 42 and 43, and Payroll Warrants 41 and 44.

6. Presentation of Audit Report

Mr. Smith gave each member of the Select Board a copy of the new audit. He explained this was an information agenda item only and that no action was necessary.

7. Correspondence

A. Harbor Use Request

Mr. Smith presented a request by Stockton resident Kenneth Wyman for use of public land at Stockton Harbor for storage of a barge he uses to service moorings in the harbor. There was discussion of the volunteer work done for the town by Mr. Wyman. There was discussion of the permissions already granted by the Select Board. There was discussion of the escalation of requests for the use of public land at Stockton Harbor and the concerns regarding that use. It was decided that Mr. Smith would bring forth a policy to the Select Board at its next meeting regarding the use or prohibition of use of public land at Stockton Harbor.

Motion was made, seconded and passed 2-0-1, with Mr. Shute abstaining, to allow Kenneth Wyman to store his barge on public land at Stockton Harbor, with the understanding that this was a one-time situation and that the barge would be removed by the end of March.

8. Scheduling of Public Hearing for General Assistance Ordinance

Mr. Smith presented the Select Board with an information sheet that compared the maximum amounts from the current GA ordinance with the proposed new ordinance. He explained that the ordinance being considered by the Town was the State of Maine ordinance, which many small Maine towns use other than writing their own. He said that the Town did not have the ability to make the maximum amounts awarded smaller than the amounts in the state's GA ordinance.

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing on February 3, 2022 during the regular Select Board meeting on the proposed new GA ordinance.

9. Public Comment – Any Topic

There was no public comment.

10. Adjourn to Workshop

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn to workshop.

The Select Board adjourned to workshop at 9:18 a.m.

Town of Stockton Springs

Select Board – Workshop

January 6, 2022

Minutes

Mr. Shute called the workshop to order at 9:19 a.m.

Present: Darren Shute, Betsy Bradley, Marsha Shute.

Also Present: Mac Smith – Town Manager.

1. Select Board Member Concerns and Comments

Mr. Shute discussed the holiday closing schedule of the Town Office, and of the possibility of extended hours.

2. Town Manager Concerns and Comments

Mr. Smith handed out information regarding the Spirit of America award, which is given out to honor volunteerism in Maine.

Mr. Smith reminded the Select Board that a promise had been made to review the Short-Term Rental issue again in January, which would provide enough time to go through the ordinance process if one were needed, and again in July. He suggested the issue be discussed in February rather than January due to the meeting with the Prospect Select Board at the next January meeting. It was agreed to wait until the second meeting in February to discuss again Short-Term Rentals.

There was discussion of an abandoned boat in Stockton Harbor. Mr. Smith said the advice of the Town Attorney, which he sought at the request of the Harbormaster, was to avoid confiscating the boat if at all possible, and that if the boat were to be confiscated, the Town's Harbor Ordinance would have to be followed closely.

Mr. Smith provided an answer to a question posed at the last meeting regarding whether there were any state programs that would pay for EMT training. Mr. Smith said he had checked with Stockton's Ambulance Director and there were no such programs.

Mr. Smith said a third APRA disbursement had been made, and that a small check had been received by the town.

Adjournment

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the workshop.

The workshop was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.