

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Attendance: Selectman Redman

Selectman Staples

Administrative Assistant: Gail Gary-Cox

Other Attendees: Mickey Sirota

Charlie LeRoy

Alex Barnes

Town Clerk Interim: Kathy Hoey

1. Called to Order at 4:37pm
2. Public Comments
  - a. Mickey Sirota will be discussing with Andrew Schindel, processing, collecting, and compiling requests for donations from the donation advisory committee. Then the recommendation would be brought to the Selectmen to approve Mickey and Joyce's recommendations.
  - b. The Midcoast Villager has granted permission for the paper to be posted on the town's website, however the Midcoast Villager would like credit.
  - c. Mickey will discussing with Laurel information needed for the Mad Hennaing report for purchase for the land and any back up paperwork.
3. Selectmen's Comments
  - a. Selectmen Redman shared a letter that he had received from the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry, that as a recent grant recipient of the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund, the Town of Searsmont is eligible for additional funds for the McLellan Project. Such funds could be used for upgrading access roads, the addition of parking, benches, signage, kiosks, etc. The town can apply for up to \$10,100 to access improvements on the trail.
4. Modification to the Agenda-none
5. Approval of the Minutes for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024-Selectman Redman made a motion to approve the minutes for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.
6. Old Business
  - a. Upgrade Phone System-Alex Barnes would be the town support contact. When a caller dials in, they can select a person's line directly and speak with them or leave a voicemail for them. Alex has installed 5 of these systems and manages

approximately 50. The system is not auto attended and has no remote dial access. The cost of the system would be \$2414.12 and the phone bill would be \$177.89 a month. Selectman Redman made a motion to upgrade our phone system to Sangoma with Angel Computer Systems Inc. and the system will be paid for by Arpa funds. Selectman Staples seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous. Alex is going to get us updated numbers and order the system and schedule the installation as soon as possible.

- b. Trail Update and Discussion with Charlie LeRoyer-Charlie shared that he cut a new section of the trail from the leach field to connect with the existing trail behind the barn and put a post up saying Town Trail. Charlie also put up a laminated map just as you leave the leach field giving description and size of the trail. There will be a permanent map placed later. The kiosk will be postponed until spring due to being built on site. Discussions will continue regarding planning for the parking area for the second entrance for the trail off Woodmans Mill Rd and the second Kiosk. There will be further discussions and planning for an additional trail section for handicap accessibility. Charlie shared a list of volunteers that helped with the trail to be recognized. The town will investigate trail monitors to maintain the trail. Selectman Redman is going to research federal standards for the trail to ensure that the town has met the grant guidelines. A sign will be added, possibly to the kiosk, informing the public that no motorized vehicles are permitted on the trail.

c. Road Report

- 1. Billy Kinney placed pea stone down on the Pond Rd. He drove up and down the big hill and the road was good.
- 2. Selectman Redman contacted Jake Boyington, ARC, to instruct his plow truck drivers to bank the snow to the right where the tar road ends and turns to a gravel road instead of just stopping and leaving the snowbank in the middle on the Crie Rd.
- 3. Lawry Rd has a blocked culvert at Barbara Jeans residence. It is a metal culvert. The culvert needs to be replaced with a plastic culvert to prevent this type of blocking again and water freezing across the road. A letter will be composed and sent out.

7. New Business

a. Discussion on Community Building Committee

- 1. Searsmont Community Building Maintenance & Planning Committee would be composed of 3 committee members. The members would be appointed by the Selectmen. The committee members suggested are Martha Goodenow, Jim L. Robbins Sr, and Darcy Lamont. The committee would be

responsible for assessing, planning, and overseeing maintenance, repairs, and future plans for community building and grounds. The Selectmen agree the committee would be a positive addition and would like to progress with the proposal as soon as possible.

- b. Roof Quote from Mitchell's Roofing & Sheet Metal. Use Arpa Grant Money for the Roof-To Strip and dispose of existing shingles, apply high temperature ice and water shield in the valleys and synthetic underlayment on the rest \$13,250.00. All materials and labor to install a pre-painted, double lock standing seam steel roof, over existing shingles, on the remaining sections of building, including cap on all ridges, and 40' of snowguards over gutters \$64, 575.00. The town would need to remove the solar panels. If the shingles were to be removed, ice and water shield installed and underlayment the total would be \$77,825. The roof would be put on their calendar for next summer. The light on the asphalt roof that shines down on the flagpole would be removed. Selectman Staples made a motion to sign a contract with Mitchell's Roofing & Sheet Metal LLC for \$77,825 for removal of existing shingles and installation of the metal roof and the use of Arpa funds to pay for the project. Selectman Redman seconded the motion. Unanimous.
  - c. Approval of the Minutes for Town Meeting April 2024-Selectman Redman made a motion to approve the minutes for the town meeting for April 2024. Selectman Staples approved the motion to approve the minutes. Unanimous.
8. Selectman Redman made a motion to enter Executive Session with Andrew Schindel to discuss Personnel Matters 1 MRSA § 405 (6A). Selectman Staples seconded the motion. Executive session entered at 6:20pm.
  9. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm