

Approved July 12, 2021

**Town of Thomaston
Select Board Minutes
June 28, 2021**

IN PERSON AT 13 VALLEY STREET

Select Board Present: Chair Diane Giese, Vice-Chair Peter Lammert, Bill Hahn, Zel Bowman-Laberge, Town Clerk Melissa Stevens, and Town Manager Kara George

Select Board Member Absent: Sandy Moore

Public Present: John Fancy, Tim Hoppe, Rene Dorr, Bandon Allen, Peggy McCrea, William Eustis, Joanne Richards, Kim Matthews, Quixada Moore-Vissing

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ACTION: The Breen motion was made by Bill Hahn to take the agenda out of order. Peter Lammert Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9A. Review two (2) bids for the replacement of the Town Office roof as submitted by G & E Roofing Company and C.O. Back & Sons.

Rene Dorr and Brandon Allen spoke about the bids.

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion to go with G & E Roofing with a contingency that the work will be covered under the warranty not just the product. Peter Lammert Seconded. VOTE: 3-1

9B. Consider for appointment Quixada Moore-Vissing to the RSU #13 School Board for the Town of Thomaston.

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion to accept the appointment. Zel Bowman-Laberge Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9C. Consider for appointment William Eustis as an alternate member of the Planning Board.

Zel Bowman-Laberge asked that the Planning Board waive the ordinance of the requirement to be a two-year resident of Thomaston to be on the Planning Board. Zel stated that she believed that ordinance had been waived before.

Joanne Richards, Chair of the Planning Board request that the Board waive the ordinance.

Approved July 12, 2021

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion to accept the appointment. Zel Bowman-Laberge Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9D. Discuss the by-laws of the Midcoast Internet Development Corporation and continue discussion of the Interlocal Agreement.

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion to table until the next meeting, waiting for more information. Zel Bowman-Laberge Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9E. Review for approval the directive for the Stakeholders Group and consider appointments for the same to work with consultants in the development of the Trails & Parks Masterplan.

John Fancy stated that the list of folks who have volunteered wanting to be part of the Masterplan for the Parks & Trails and have unique qualifications that would be beneficial for developing the plan. Working with Zel Bowman-Laberge putting together those that were part of the original Thomaston Green Task Force and Friends of the Thomaston Green to represent broadly as we can. The first meeting will be scheduled sometime in July to review what's been done so far. Starting in late August or September will be working with a consultant to see where we go from there.

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion to accept the Stakeholders Group. Zel Bowman-Laberge Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9F. Authorize the Town Manager to sign the application to Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) for a sidewalk across Mill River.

John Fancy spoke about the current pedestrian crossing to the east end of town, Route 1 crossing which is unsafe to cross. He met with DOT, to discuss a program they have and DOT is willing to help with a proposal that would give a 10 foot wide sidewalk on the southend of Route 1 and connect with existing sidewalks and trails on Fish Street and Main Street, and bring it across to the old High Street to Montpelier and coordinate the traffic light on Route 131 so pedestrians can push a button to cross there. DOT will pay 80% of the cost and we will pay 20% of the cost. We would get enough money to design it in 2022 and presumably enough money to build this 2023.

Public Comment:

Peggy McCrea asked if it would be below the road level? John Fancy responded that it would be at road grade level.

Approved July 12, 2021

ACTION: Zel Bowman-Laberge made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign the application to Maine Department of Transportation for a sidewalk across Mill River. Diane Giese Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9G. Authorize the Town Manager to contract with Dirigo Engineering for a feasibility study for an east-west highway, north of the village, running from Old County Road to Route 1, with costs not to exceed \$20,000.

John Fancy spoke about the study.

Public Comments:

Joanne Richards stated she lives on Emery Ave. and at a meeting last weeks it was stated that it would be north on Dragon Mountain and that she spoke with John Fancy on the way out of that meeting and he reiterated that it would be north of Dragon Mountain. You will notice that both lines drawn in on the map is south of Dragon Mountain. When I enlarged the map you can see it crosses my backyard. I am concerned that you are doing the study with only the southern routes being studied. The southern route will effect houses on Emery Ave. and Old County Road.

John Fancy stated the map is several years old and Dragon has not determined if it would be north or south, they will look at different routes.

Discussion continued with different options suggested.

ACTION: Zel Bowman-Laberge made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to contract with Dirigo Engineering for a feasibility study for an east-west highway, north of the village, running from Old County Road to Route 1, with costs not to exceed \$20,000.

Bill Hahn Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9H. Review the approval the proposed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Policy for the Thomaston Police Department.

Chief Hoppe spoke that there needs to be a policy adopted and approved.

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion to adopt the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Policy. Peter Lammert Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9I. Approve for signature the municipal quit claim deed to release the lien placed on 62 Green Street.

Approved July 12, 2021

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion to approve the signature for the municipal quit claim deed to release the lien placed on 62 Green Street. Diane Giese Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9J. Consider approving the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Investment Management Services on the Town's Trust Funds.

ACTION: Bill Hahn made a motion to approve the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Investment Management Services on the Town's Trust Funds. Diane Giese Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

9K. Discuss a digital sign for municipal events and a public caucus per the request of Chair Diane Giese.

Public Comment: Joanne Richards advised on the signage ordinance.

Diane Giese asked that if the residents could let us know of ways that work for them to receive information on events in meetings happening in town.

Quixada Moore-Vissing suggested additional communications via text messaging chains. In addition, could post information where people naturally go such as the Transfer Stations and local businesses.

Diane Giese suggest that holding a gathering caucus outreach twice year, September & March, as a year trail. Would have department heads there, the select board and have some food and games for the kids, and let the residents let us know what they are thinking about.

2. Public Hearings: No public hearings.

3. Minutes to approve. No minutes to approve.

4. Approve the Warrants

ACTION: Pete Lammert made a motion to approve all the Warrants. Zel Bowman-Laberge Seconded. VOTE: 4-0

5. Adjustments to the Agenda. No adjustments.

6. Town Manager Report.

By Town Manager, Kara George.

7. Town Boards & Committees Update.

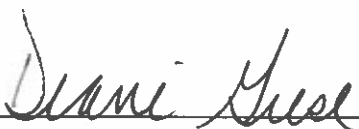
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Zel Bowman-Laberge stated that the OHSTT is working on a hazards land pay by quantity program held annually that would include pesticides. Similar to Rockport.

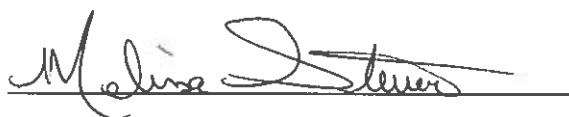
8. Public Comments

John Fancy gave an update on the Solar Array Project.

**ACTION: Diane Giese made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. Zel Bowman-Laberge Seconded.
VOTE: 4-0.**



Chair Diane Giese



Town Clerk Melissa Stevens