

23 NOV 6 4:00PM
Jessie Higgins
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Nauset Room, Town Hall

A meeting of the Town of Orleans Select Board was held in the Nauset Room at Town Hall and via Zoom and Channel 8 at 4:45 pm on November 1, 2023.

In attendance in the Nauset Room were Chair Herman, Clerk Reed, Mr. Runyon, and Mr. Galligan with Town Manager Newman. Vice Chair Mathison joined the meeting during the Executive Session.

4:45 p.m. Call to Order. The Chair called the meeting to order.

Executive Session.

Ms. Reed moved to go into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease, or value of real property on Bay Ridge Road and to approve and release the Executive Session minutes of March 16, 2021, March 26, 2021, March 29, 2021, June 23, 2021, July 7, 2021, July 21, 2021, August 11, 2021, and December 1, 2021. and the Chair declare that an Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the body, and to reconvene in Open Session. Mr. Galligan seconded the motion. Mr. Runyon, Mr. Herman, Mr. Galligan and Ms. Reed voted Aye. Motion carried: 4-0-0.

The Chair separately declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the body.

The Open Session reconvened after 19 minutes.

Public Comment.

The Firefighters and EMTs shared that they are hosting a "Homeless for the Holidays" event from December 6-10 on Route 6A during which they will be camping out for 130 hours and collecting materials for needy families.

The Chair of the Planning Board alerted the board and public about two opportunities for contributions to the Comprehensive Plan at COA on November 16 and the Police Station on December 5.

A resident of Eldredge Parkway spoke about the dredging at Rock Harbor and a problem with the sandbar and the Eastham boat ramp.

Ms. Lindahl from the Orleans Chamber of Commerce spoke about the success of the Halloween Stroll and various upcoming events and meetings. Santa Claus will be visiting at 9am at the Yacht Club during Small Business Saturday. She said lots of information is on the website.

Discuss and vote to sign an Intermunicipal Agreement between 11 other Cape towns necessary for the Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Grant

Public Health Agent Fitch spoke about the Intermunicipal Agreement and the sharing of public health services and answered questions about how the agreement can help Orleans.

Mr. Galligan moved the Chair of the Select Board sign the Intermunicipal Agreement for the Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Grant. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Meet with Planning Director George Meservey for a presentation of the Build Out Analysis.

Mr. Meservey presented a slide show regarding the Build Out Analysis to provide an understanding of possible future growth. He reviewed the types of dwellings and various locations for 1860 more dwellings. He projected a possible increase in residents to 8518 people, assuming 54% year round occupancy. There was significant discussion about the possible impact on the town and how to best gather input and plan growth including the economic needs, tax implications and how to integrate feedback from the next generation.

Conduct interviews with applicants to various Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

Mr. Zenke interviewed for a role with the Shellfish & Waterways Committee. Four people have interviewed for a single opening on this committee.

Mr. Mathison moved to appoint Mr. Wilson to the Shellfish & Waterways Committee as an alternate member. with a term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Ms. Mitchell was interviewed for the Energy & Climate Action Committee.

Ms. Reed moved to appoint Ms. Mitchell as an associate member with a term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Meet with the Executive Director of the Orleans Chamber of Commerce regarding next steps for the former Visitor Information building located at 8 Eldredge Park Way.

Ms. Lindahl supplied information regarding the structure on Eldredge Park Way for the Select Board packet. The Town Manager asked for Board direction on how to proceed with assisting the Town or Chamber with the use of the building and site. There was a discussion about exploring options to offer the building to other entities. The Board weighed offering the building first to town departments and committees, then non-profit agencies and partners, and finally the broader public. It was decided to suggest the building be offered to everyone but note that the decision about final allocation would rely on a decision by the Select Board. Consensus was that the Town Manager will investigate interested parties and report back to the Select Board.

Consider request for a transfer in assignment for boat slip located at Rock Harbor.

Mr. Sears spoke about the Rock Harbor policies and how slips/docks are not transferable. Mr. Sears suggested a precedent would be set and many others would want to transfer dockage if the Select Board decides to support the transfer. The Board also heard about the hardship case for transferring the dockage. The difference between business use and recreational use of a slip was raised and whether hardship applies to recreational uses. It was suggested the regulations need some clarification.

Mr. Runyon moved to support the Harbormasters decision regarding the slip. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Discussion and review of October 16th Town Meeting .

The Board considered that communication about language or information in the warrant articles needs to be explained prior to the Town Meeting for better understanding by the voters. This might include explaining what "general municipal use" or "Free Cash" means, or that regulations for safety are a personal rights violation. Also, the fall Town Meeting attracts a smaller crowd, and this can change the dynamic of the forum. It was observed that the better preparation and advance communication about an article, the better able the voters are to decide. The voters

clearly want a Master Plan for recreation before opting for extra pickleball courts. There was discussion about staffing (man hours) to support various initiatives and priorities for the Town and finding alternative funding sources. The Town Manager observed that most voters came well informed thanks to outreach. She said she felt the meeting went very smoothly, was well run, and not very contentious. She expressed the desire for Committee chairs to come forward earlier to work on how to fund projects.

Consider the Cape Cod Chamber request to send a letter of support for the Regional Economic Development Organization grant.

Mr. Galligan moved to sign a letter of support for the Regional Economic Development Organization Grant. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Vote to sign letter to MassDEP regarding a status update of nitrogen management planning.

Ms. Reed moved that the Select Board sign the letter to MassDEP. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Liaison reports and member updates

The Architectural Review Committee approved a sign for a new business on West Road and modifications to the design for modular construction of affordable housing at 107 Main Street. The Planning Board reviewed the final input for the Comprehensive Plan and are preparing for two public meetings.

The Wastewater Advisory Committee has an information session next Wednesday, Nov. 8, 5pm. The Orleans Citizen Forum will discuss all things wastewater on November 30.

Master Field Planning will happen next week.

The Economic Development Committee is investigating regional opportunities, as well as strictly local options. Big employers and future focus will be healthcare, coastal resilience, future energy, and cultural resources.

The Board will try 4pm meeting starts on alternating weeks.

The Town Manager had a meeting with Chatham and neither party wants to change the agreement between towns.

Items for future agendas.

Adjourn.

Ms. Galligan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. All voted AYE. Motion carried: 4-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7.40 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Fountain*