

Submitted by:

Approved by Selectmen:

1/27/21

[Handwritten signatures]

[Handwritten signature]

Adele M. Suggs
Admin Asst

**TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2021**

*The Selectmen convened at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with Selectman Young,
Selectman House, Selectman Mixon, and Administrator Jones present.*

Reference 1 - Phippsburg Food Sovereignty Ordinance

I. Adjustments

Vote: Selectman Young motioned to table Item 5 under New Business until next week. He mentioned this was a special circumstance because the position was a vacated elected position that must be filled and the Library Trustees have made their required recommendation. He also added under Unfinished Business a discussion of dates for Town Meeting and Elections. These adjustments were seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to add an Executive Session per Title 30 M.R.S.A. 405 § 6A to discuss a personnel matter which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

II. New Business

1. Meet with Patricia Haag and members of the Food Sovereignty Ordinance Sub-Committee to hear a brief presentation, and participate in a Q&A session to help establish priorities of the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Haag thanked Administrator Jones for bringing the option of a Food Sovereignty Ordinance to the attention of the Phippsburg Community Garden Committee. She asked the committee if they would issue a statement of support for an ordinance, which they did, and then a few months later the committee agreed to work on drafting the ordinance. Ms. Haag also thanked the Selectmen in helping to move this forward but also for making time during tonight's meeting for this presentation. The subcommittee is here not only to inform, but to listen and learn. They would like input from as many Phippsburg residents and supporters as possible in order to know what the Town wants out of a Food Sovereignty Ordinance. Ms. Haag read a brief statement about the work of the Merrymeeting Food Council and also a brief bio of Jamie Pacheco, from the Merrymeeting Food Council, who is making tonight's presentation. Ms. Pacheco's presentation discussed what Food Sovereignty is, what a Food Sovereignty Ordinance might mean for the Town, the history of Food Sovereignty in Maine and why they are beneficial to communities. (Reference 1 attached). Presentation was followed by a question and answer session as well as what the Town would like to see out of this Ordinance. The sub-committee will be meeting with Administrator Jones on Tuesday to begin drafting an ordinance. After that, in late January and into February will obtain more input/feedback and possibly conduct a public hearing. Selectman House suggested a possible survey to get resident input. The sub-committee is still in the

Submitted by:

Approved by Selectmen:

1/27/21
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

ams

Adele M. Suggs
Admin Asst

learning process. They want to include as many people as possible and prepare this carefully so it may not be ready to go before Town Meeting this year.

2. Consider accepting a \$600.00 donation to the Goodwill Fund collected by bottles at the Phippsburg Transfer Station.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to accept the above donation which was seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

3. Discuss establishing another medical plan.

Administrator Jones provided two sheets to the Board – the different plans offered by the current insurer. She went through many different stages. The Administrator is going with the recommendation of Debbie Bridges who works for MMA Health who recommended she ask the Board to offer the PPO 2500 plan. The total cost for the POS 200 Plan for a family is \$1,737.59; employer contribution is \$966.85. Employees are covered at 75% with 25% coverage for family members. This plan is not affordable to the Administrator. What MMA is willing to do is offer the PPO 2500 Plan that will automatically instigate a special enrollment period and she could be eligible for that plan effective February 1st. Administrator Jones is also requesting a stipend for the difference between the high plan and the affordable plan. Insurance for the Codes Enforcement Officer, Lee Rainey is remaining unchanged and he will remain on his current plan. The Employer Cost for this new plan will be the same including the stipend.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to offer employee’s and their families POS 200 Plan and lower – PPO 500, PPO 1500 and PPO 2500 which was seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to approve a stipend in the amount of \$203.46, for the Town Administrator – Amber Jones on monthly payroll until November of 2021 which is the difference from the current plan to the new plan, which was seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

4. Hire Frederick A. Libby, Jr. and Albert D. Wyman Sr. to fill two On-Call Transfer Station Attendant positions.

The Board met in Executive Session last week to review the above applications but did not take any action on them.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to hire Frederick A. Libby, Jr. and Albert D. Wyman, Sr. to fill the above two on-call positions, which was seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

5. Consider the recommendation of the Totman Library Trustees to appoint Terry A. Nordmann per Title 30 M.R.S.A. § 2253, to the Totman Library Board of Trustees for the remainder of a five-year term ending June 30, 2021. **TABLED PER ABOVE MOTION**

III. Unfinished Business

1. Reconsider strategies to maintain a safe and healthy work environment and public services in response to the pandemic Covid-19 - discuss dates for Town Meeting and Elections.
The Board would like to discuss setting Town Meeting and Election dates so a timeline can be created.

Submitted by:

ame

Adele M. Suggs
Admin Asst

Approved by Selectmen:

1/27/21

[Signature]

Originally it was talked about having Town Meeting the last Saturday before Memorial Day, May 22nd and Elections June 8th. Selectman House asked if the Board wanted to hold an open Town Meeting or do it on a ballot; what would be the cost difference? Administrator Jones will do some research on prices of the ballots. A public hearing would still need to be held either by Zoom or on the ballfield. Would it be possible to get people's thoughts on what they would like to see? Selectman Young would like to see Elections held on June 8th and Town Meeting on June 12th to get the process started.

Vote: Selectman Young motioned to table further discussion until next week, tentatively working with the above suggested dates to develop a schedule, which was seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

IV. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements:

Administrator Jones announced that the Town Office will be closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Day. She will find out whether the Transfer Station will be open or closed and re-open the following day, and post it on the Website.

Selectman Young reminded to be careful if you're going on the ice with rain forecasted for Saturday, which will make the conditions worse.

V. Review and/or Sign:

1. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants

Vote: Selectman House motioned to sign Payroll Warrant #68 and Accounts Payable Warrant #69, which were seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

2. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2021.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to approve the above meeting minutes which were seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

3. Custodian Job Ad

Administrator Jones provided a draft of the ad and the job description. She asked if the deadline date for submitting applications was too soon; it will be extended if no applications are received. Emily Swizard will be filling in temporarily. Suggestion was made to possibly have more flexible hours and not specific to just cleaning on the weekends and that would possibly bring in more applicants. The hourly rate will not be advertised; it will be negotiable. The board will look over and approve the job description prior to the job ad being posted.

VI. Executive Session

Vote: At 6:26 p.m. Selectman House motioned to go into Executive Session per Title 30 M.R.S.A. 405 § 6A to discuss a personnel matter which was seconded by Selection Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

No decisions will be made during this session.

Adjournment

Vote: At 6:45 p.m. Selectman House motioned to adjourn which was seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Phippsburg
Food Sovereignty
Ordinance

By

Members of Phippsburg, Vermont, Phippsburg, Vermont
General Committee on Food Sovereignty
Susan Smith & Margaret Hill, Food Council

Photo Credit: Robb Doninger

What is Food Sovereignty:

- “The right of a community or peoples to define their own food, agriculture, livestock, and fisheries systems.”
- “It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies.”

What is a Food Sovereignty Ordinance:

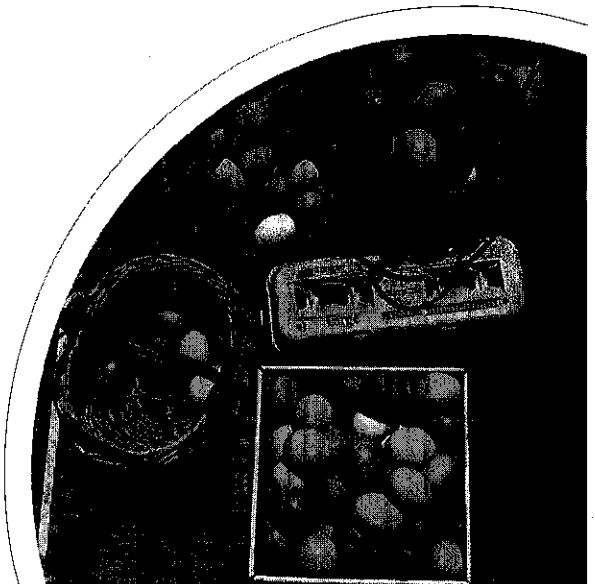
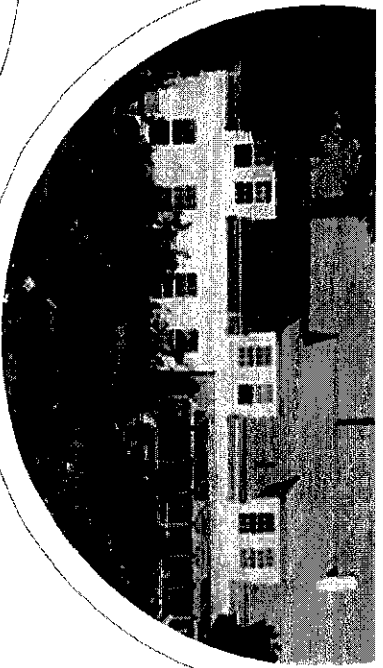
- Legally protects small scale food producers (farmers, fisherfolk, food preservers, small businesses, etc.) when they are selling food directly to consumers.

History of Food Sovereignty Ordinances in Maine:

- La Via Campesina, the peasants' movement, began in 1992 in South America to protect the lives, livelihood and land of small-scale farmers.
- In 2011, Maine passed a bill “to oppose any federal statute, law, or regulation that attempts to threaten our basic human right to save seed and grow, process, consume and exchange food and farm products” in response to pressure from Maine farmers, food producers and community members.
- In 2017 Gov. LePage signed the Maine Food Sovereignty Act into law, giving municipalities the right to regulate their own food systems. Amended to exclude meat processing, to protect Maine’s ability to have State-inspected butchering facilities.

What's the point?

- Why are they important?
 - They exempt small food businesses from needing to meet licensing and inspection requirements designed for large-scale food production
 - Allow communities to define how and where they get their food
 - Encourage and support small food businesses
 - Support sustainable fishing and farming
 - Support personal responsibility and self-reliance
- What do they cover?
 - Transactions between food **producers and consumers**
 - Dairy products, seafood, vegetables, preserved foods, etc.
 - Sales at production site (ex. farms, homes), at farmers markets, bean suppers, fundraiser, CSAs, community events*
- What don't they cover?
 - Butchering/processing of meat and poultry, including hunted foods (deer, turkey, etc.)
 - Interstate food sales, sales to distributors, sales to restaurants, etc.
 - Food products used for catering
- Is there a risk?
 - Unsafe foods



Questions?

North Creek Farm, North Creek Farm, Pierce Studio

What sort of food production do we need to protect and support in Phippsburg?

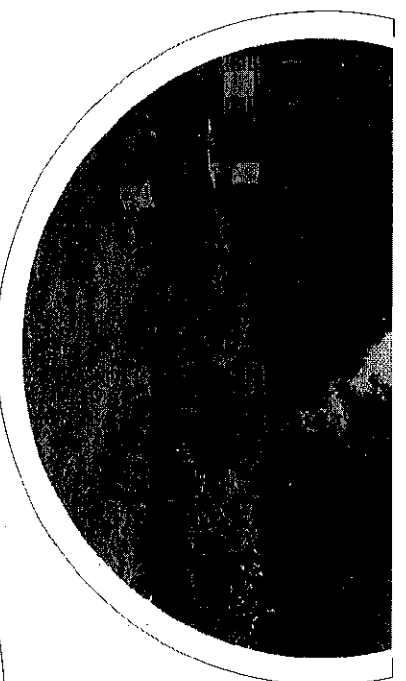
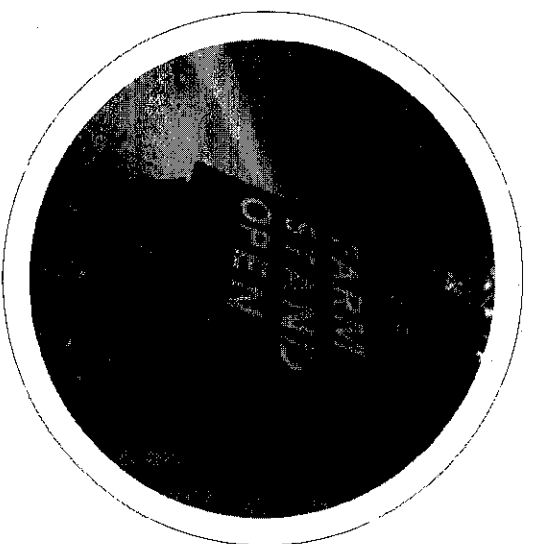
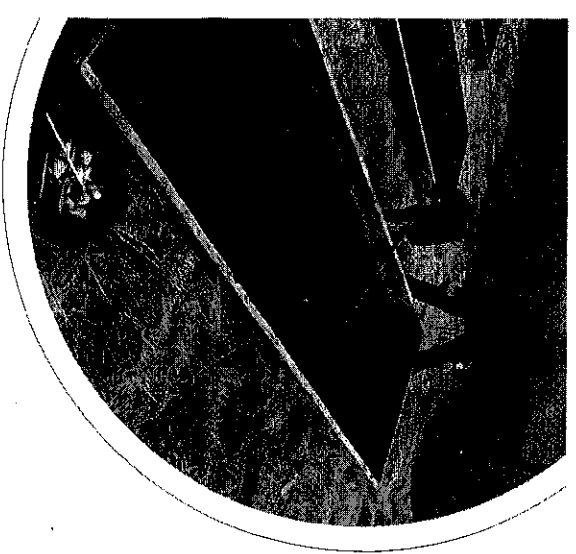
Currently there is only one food production industry in Phippsburg: seafood. Some seafood industries are on the rise (you may have noticed oyster farms cropping up in the area), whereas other shellfish (clams, mussels, quahogs, etc.) have long been a part of Phippsburg's commerce. We should consider what can be done to support and sustain this existing industry, as well as how we may expand into adjacent markets: seaweed? Others?

Moving away from aquaculture to agriculture, there have not been commercial farms in Phippsburg (for food production) in a long time. One of the ways I see the Food Sovereignty Ordinance serving the town, is by opening the way for small food production operations; not only for vegetable and fruit, but also potentially small game and meat processing.

Ideally, we will eventually have the opportunity to capitalize on these small operations. As you know, the Town Lands Management Committee is leading an ad hoc committee to establish yet another Ordinance for the 2021 Town Meeting: a stand-alone "Vendor Ordinance", which will regulate the use of the Town Hall parking lot by vendors. I can imagine these two new ordinances working very well in tandem, and recognize that in order to bring these new opportunities to Phippsburg, that many steps will need to be taken, with a lot of notice and a lot of public engagement. Which is why we are here, to begin the conversation.

Other Towns with Food Sovereignty Ordinances

- 79 other towns, in all 16 counties
- Closest towns to Phippsburg: Georgetown and Pownal
- List of towns with Food Sovereignty Ordinances and map by county can be found on [localfoodrules.org](https://www.localfoodrules.org/):
<https://www.localfoodrules.org/mapping-food-sovereignty/>



Questions?