

Submitted By:

Amber Jones
Amber L. Jones
Administrator

**TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
September 18, 2019**

Approved by Selectmen:

CL 10/23/19
JY 10/23/19
JMH 10/23/19

The regular Selectmen's meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with Selectman Nixon, Selectman Young, Selectman House and Administrator Jones present.

Adjustments

Selectman House requested that the Review and Sign portion be moved to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate her early departure to the McLanathan meeting.

Vote: Selectman House motioned to move the "Review and Sign" portion to the beginning of the meeting agenda, which was seconded by Selectman Young and passed by a vote 3-0.

Vote: Selectman Young motioned to sign the Accounts Payable, Payroll warrants, and Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for July 17th, July 24th, and September 11th, 2019, which was seconded by Selectman House and passed by a vote 3-0.

I. New Business

1. Meet with Laura Sewall, former Director of Bates Morse Mountain and Caitlin Cleaver, the current Director, and hear the annual Bates Morse Mountain Report.

Laura Sewall started by introducing Caitlin Cleaver as the new director of Bates Morse Mountain, and shared some background. Laura and Caitlin met when they worked together as Co-Principal Investigators on an National Science Foundation grant to support a field station consortium (12 field stations) that tracked changes in the coastal zone that were likely to be climate-related, like temperature and rocky-inter-tidal transects, vegetation transects in the salt marsh, etc. Caitlin's former role was the Director of Science at the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership for 4 years, she's also worked with DMR as a consultant on issues like right whale entanglements with trap-lines. She is currently finishing her PHD in Marine Science, and understands the science of this coastal region.

Laura Sewall continued with her annual report, first giving an overview of her own Letter from the Director, to highlight an interesting fact she discovered in an article in Nature magazine about the value of salt marshes; that the current value attributed to salt marshes, their eco-services (benefit to humans) is \$194,000 per hectare per year. "The Sprague Marsh [for example] is 74 acres, or 30 hectares, translating into an estimated value of \$5.8 million per year [...] which does not include carbon storage which we now know is super valuable". This value includes the avoided costs by providing storm surge protection, nursery grounds for fisheries, and filtration of water. Whatever we can continue to do to protect even the fringes of the salt marshes is worthwhile. Phippsburg is rich in natural resources.

On the education and research front, Bates College students interfaced with the elementary school. This year, students from an Introduction to Marine Science class created short videos of marine concepts for the 3rd 4th and 5th graders, that used the videos with experiential activities and at the culmination of their study they went to Bates Morse Mountain to see the concepts they had learned about first-hand.

In terms of the continuation of research and monitoring; sediment elevation tables were monitored to

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look at how much accretion has happened on the salt marshes and how they're doing with respect to sea-level rise. It looks as though the marsh migration is occurring in the way it has been predicted; the areas closest to the sea edge are likely to get muddier due to of increased accretion. With respect to shore birds, the piping plover recovery effort has been a tremendous success. In 2018 there were 68 pairs of Piping Plovers state-wide, and in 2019 there are 89 pairs, which really speaks to the conservation efforts: educating people, and fencing, keeping dogs and foxes away.

New Director of Bates Morse Mountain, Caitlin Cleaver, introduced herself. She is coming to us from the Rockland area. She started a month ago, she is building working relationships and is particularly interested in community engagement. A new addition to the job is teaching a short-term course at Short Ridge, she is intends on teaching this class in a way that brings students into the community.

II. Correspondence

1. Letter form MMA Executive Director, Stephen Gove, to inform the Select Board that Phippsburg's Town Report won the "Supreme" Award, placing first in our population group.

Selectman Mixon read the award letter. Particular thanks go to Adele Suggs for compiling the report Administrator Jones and Lisa Wallace, as it was a cooperative effort.

III. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements:

Selectman Young gave an update on the Center Pond Fishway, and mentioned that the committee has been working for a long time to get the fishery open. The long-term plan is to rebuild the fishway. Dept. of Marine Resources specialist Mike Brown working on River Herring municipal harvest and restoration, went to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission and asked if Phippsburg could have limited fishery next year at Center Pond. Through the tagging and count program done there annually, the 2016 estimated count was 10,000 fish that came through, in 2017 42,000 in 2018 52,000 and in 2019 more than 60,000 fish. Technical staff for the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission recommends that we allow up 15% of the 2019 fish count to be harvested in the coming year (roughly 62 bushels), with possible increases each year depending on the count. Selectman Young highlighted the fact that altering the fishway is illegal. There have been issues with people nailing plywood to the outside in an attempt to restrict the flow of water.

IV. Public Forum:

Kevin Sudeith introduced himself, an artist in residence here in Phippsburg who is driving a white van with Minnesota plates. His work has been featured on NPR, in the New York Times, and Atlantic Magazine. Kevin is a Petroglyphist (Rock Artist) who is working on Land Trust trails, and got word that some residents were concerned about what he is doing so he wanted to introduce himself. He is working with the Phippsburg Land Trust on a project that will span 3 years (spending three months a year here) designed for community engagement. The selection of imagery tells the story of a place at a given moment in time. His work is shallow relief carvings on immovable rock. He explained that he asks

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communities for input on what images they identify with, and how those images can be a reflection of a moment in time. He posed the question "what is the function of art?" And argued that it is to revive something with which people in the community can identify, something they can see that can help them locate themselves in time and history; for which he depends on people telling him their stories so he knows what to do.

For more information about Kevin Sudeith and his rock art, see his website www.petroglyphist.com or his presentation to the Phippsburg Land Trust's Annual Meeting is on their Facebook page.

V. Review and Sign:

1. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants
2. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for July 17th, July 24th and September 11th, 2019

Vote: *See Vote done at the beginning of the meeting.*

Adjournment

Vote: At 6:58 p.m. Selectman Young motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 2-0.