

SELECTMANS MEETING
MINUTES MARCH 16, 2026

PRESENT: Donna Brewer, Joe Rackliff, John Robbins, Evelyn Duncan, Travis Fifield
PUBLIC: Linda Nelson, Kathleen Billings, Morgan Eaton, Christine Hardy, newspaper
School superintendent, Rhonda Eaton, Chelsea Torrey, school board

Before the Selectmans meeting began there was a liquor and an amusement license application for Stonecutters. Licenses were approved

Warrants: Moved Duncan second Brewer to approve accounts payable warrants Vote 4-0-1

Minutes: Moved Duncan second Brewer to approve March 2nd minutes Vote 5-0

Appointments: Board signed various appointment papers for committee members

Roads: Billings and Robbins noted that with the harsh winter, the roads should be posted to prevent road damage from heavy vehicles. Robbins noted that the transfer station waste hauler would need to be exempt. Moved Robbins second Brewer to post roads. Vote 5-0

Mower: Billings reported that the town riding mower needs to be replaced. The cost of a new mower is \$2,800. Moved Robbins second Brewer to buy mower Vote 5-0

Appeals Board Billing informed the Board that we cannot use the town attorney for the upcoming Appeals Board case. She recommends Drummond & Woodsum to represent us. The cost per hour for this attorney is \$325.00 and an attorney agreement must be signed. Moved Brewer second Duncan to hire law firm, with agreement to provide Board with cost updates. Vote 5-0

Zoom Service: Morgan Eaton presented a proposal to the Board to have all meetings streamed to the public. If not streamed she requests meetings be available via zoom. She would be willing to pay the \$1250 equipment cost for year one. There is still a monthly cost. Board had multiple questions about the service ranging from legal liabilities, multiple locations of meetings, cost of multiple meetings as opposed to Selectmans meeting only. Who and how many would use the service when presently there is no interest when meetings are zoomed. Will people who zoom actually step up an offer their services? Board will table issue until they can study streaming service.

Projects: Billings reported that she has had several calls about opportunity to bid on paving. Billings reported that the ash has been tested and can be sent to the landfill. She will start this ASAP while haulers are still available.

Committees: Brewer reported that she attended the economic development committee meeting and this committee is presently working on event projects for downtown.

Nelson reported that the construction work for the elevator at the old school has started. Fifield could not attend Community Center meeting but Nelson is working with them and all parking and traffic to community center will come from the back. Also the farmers market will be set up in the back of the building.

Duncan reported that the Harbor committee did not have a quorum, however the committee has found a replacement for the open position, so it will be a full committee again.

Duncan reported on the shellfish committee meeting. Two new members are needed from Deer Isle, one new member is needed from Stonington. The past chairman quit, the current chairmen will only serve till May. No one volunteered to be chairman. No present clammer volunteered to come on Board. Conservation time is a problem as Deer Isle passed new ordinance Stonington did not vote on a new ordinance so Towns don't match. Hannah (from State) reported that Deer Isle new ordinance has not been approved by State so 2022 one is in force. It states 7 hours of time. 3 meetings 4 hours conservation. As there was no February meeting how does that count or not. Board decided to give everyone a free meeting so to get license this year need 2 meetings and 4 hours conservation. Duncan needs to report back to shellfish committee what Stonington wants to do about ordinance problem, also how does the Board want to handle conservation records to the clerks come license time?

Christina Hardy was in attendance at our meeting she is volunteering to go on shellfish committee. Appointment papers will be needed.

Other: The superintendent of school gave the Board a time line for their June budget. She discussed the fact that there is going to be an appraisal of the buildings with capital projects listed by importance and estimated. Hopefully the school can obtain the State grant money of up to \$2,000,000 for each building. Due to valuations of island property the school has lost approximately \$150,000 of State funding, this will have to be made up by taxpayers. The school board may decide to borrow money for projects to spread the cost over time. The Board will probably not be able to take as much out of surplus as this account is down to approximately \$700,000. Stonington has 91 students in school Deer Isle has 213.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45PM
