

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2023

Members Present:

None

Others Present:

None

Business:

Meeting cancelled due to weather conditions.

Board members signed a resolution supporting a multi-town application for Congressionally Directed Spending for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Copy attached.

Resolution Supporting Appropriation for Regional Community Wildfire Defense Grant

WHEREAS promoting the health, safety and general well-being of its community members is a core function of the Town of Penobscot, located in Hancock County, Maine, includes both suppressing fires when they occur and reducing the risk of fire, including wildfire; and,

WHEREAS the effects of climate change, including drought, unpredictable water supply, high wind and trees weakened by insects, have increased the risk and impact of wildfire; and,

WHEREAS the US Forest Service helps at-risk communities reduce the threat of wildfire near homes and structures by funding development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Penobscot engages with neighboring towns on the Blue Hill Peninsula and elsewhere in Hancock County to respond to fire emergencies; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Penobscot recognizes the value of expanding its mutual-aid fire-response activities in Hancock County to developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that addresses wildfire risk interlocally and positions towns to seek future funding to implement the plan and qualify for future federal, state and non-government funding; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Penobscot, with a population 1,136 and limited resources to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan on its own, desires to achieve economies of scale and mutually beneficial planning assistance by joining other towns on the Blue Hill Peninsula in securing \$250,000 of federal funding for a multi-town Community Wildfire Protection Plan; and,

WHEREAS a multi-town Community Wildfire Protection Plan exemplifies cooperative fire protection; and,

WHEREAS Maine's 2020 Forest Action Plan mentions Community Wildfire Protection Plans in conjunction with protecting forests and communities from wildfires; and,

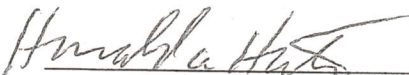
WHEREAS the Maine Forest Service stated in 2022: "We believe strongly that the communities on the Blue Hill Peninsula would greatly benefit from a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the fuels mitigation and prevention projects recommended in the report"; and,

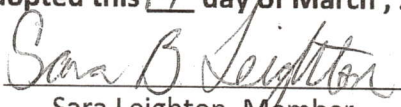
WHEREAS Congressionally Directed Spending appropriations offer towns on the Blue Hill Peninsula the ability to commission and implement a Community Wildfire Protection Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the coordinator of Blue Hill Peninsula Tomorrow has offered to help towns on the Blue Hill Peninsula prepare and submit a multi-town application for Congressionally Directed Spending prior to the March 15, 2023 deadline for submission of applications:

NOW THEREFORE, the Town of Penobscot resolves to support a multi-town application for Congressionally Directed Spending for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Adopted this 14th day of March, 2023


Harold Hatch, Chair
Select Board


Sara Leighton, Member
Select Board


Phil Rapp, Member
Select Board