

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

8/11/23
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Members Present:

Hatch, Rapp, Leighton

Others Present:

John Albrecht

Luki Hewett

Allen Krantz, Resilience Works

Bailey Bowden

Sally Bridges

Business:

Meeting commenced @ 7:00 PM.

John inquired about the 2018 town valuation and mil-rate. That information was provided to him from a copy of the 2018 Town Report.

Hatch asked John what the process is to "take over" a private cemetery. That question stems from last week's meeting with Claudia Smith regarding her desire to hand over the maintenance responsibility of the north Penobscot cemetery located on her family's land. John suggested checking with Maine Municipal Association for guidance.

Luki asked why the structure value on her tax bill increased when the house is not complete yet. Hatch explained the assessor's annual follow up on building permits issued and their progress. Even though her house is not finished, construction has progressed and with that the value has increased from last year. Hatch provided her with abatement forms in the event she wished to appeal the increase.

Sally requested that the Town hire Election Systems and Supplies to code our referendum ballot reports. That service will cost \$370. Sally will need to take a class to learn how to fill out coding form and submitting it for future elections and referendum voting.

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JULY 25, 2023

Allen presented a draft letter to Kathleen Leyden with the DMR Maine Coastal Program for the Board's consideration. This letter asks for her support to add to the Mill Stream project (\$304,165) grant application package. Board approved the draft and signed a final version (attached).

Bailey presented a draft letter requesting Maine Department of Economic and Community Development for their support for the Hancock County Planning Commission's application to the Maine DECD Housing Opportunity Program Service Provider Grant. This would enable HCPC to have the capacity to provide guidance to participating Hancock County towns in the compliance with Public Law 2021 Chapter 672. Board approved and signed final form (attached).

Board voted to accept Dorr Roofing's proposal to re-shingle the town office roof. Hatch will ask Dorr to come in to next week's meeting.

Board agreed to authorize Jesse Studley's re-appraisal of the McB corporation's Wight's Pond landing property.

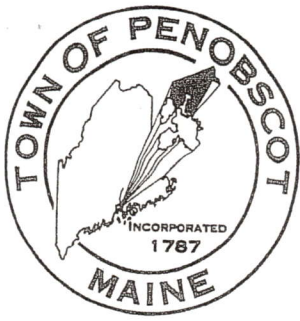
Planning Board permits:

Margret Brooks – Map 4, Lot 48 – 14' X 32' accessory building w/gravel permit - \$25 cash

Sun Dog Solar for Joseph Keegan – Map 9, Lot 34 – 12' X 22' solar array - \$27.57 check

Daniel & Michele Barber – Map 13, Lot 20 – 6' X 32' porch - \$25 check

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.



Town of Penobscot

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TAX COLLECTOR - PENOBSCOTTOWNOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

TOWN CLERK - PENOBSCOTTOWNCLERK@GMAIL.COM

August 1, 2023

To: Kathleen Leyden, Director, Maine Coastal Program, Department of Marine Resources

Re: Letter of Support to Fund the Penobscot Mill Creek Tidal Marsh Resilience Project

Dear Director Leyden:

We appreciate the attention that your Department has paid to the Penobscot Mill Creek Tidal Marsh Resilience Project, including the July 7, 2023 site visit by Lars Hammer. We write to request a letter of support for full funding of the application by the Town of Penobscot to the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program for \$304,165 for the project. Funding will be used to restore to its original riparian and marshland condition approximately 3,000 square feet of former marshland that has been degraded by the Town's open-air sand-salt pile.


The proposed project offers significant conservation values. Mill Creek empties into the Northern Bay of the Bagaduce River, one of only a few breeding locations in Maine for horseshoe crabs. The site includes high-value tidal wading bird and waterfowl habitats and is characterized as emergent wetland. The site is home to smelt, alewives and bald eagles. The Town of Penobscot intends to convey a conservation easement on the property upon completion of the restoration activities.


The Penobscot Mill Creek Tidal Marsh Resilience Project is an opportunity for the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program to advance multiple co-benefits supported by multiple government and non-government entities.


The site adjoins Pierce's Pond, at the head of Mill Creek, which borders Walamatogus Mountain, a natural resource protected by The Conservation Fund, soon to be transferred in fee to Blue Hill Heritage Trust, a climate-resilience land trust that the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program has supported with grants in the past. Downstream, Blue Hill Heritage Trust next month will acquire in fee a 7.6-acre parcel with adjoining salt marsh habitat. Upstream, Blue Hill Heritage Trust owns a 75-acre parcel abutting the north side of Pierce's Pond that protects 2,142 feet of shoreline along with approximately 820 feet of riparian corridor along Seneca Brook, which empties into Pierce's Pond.

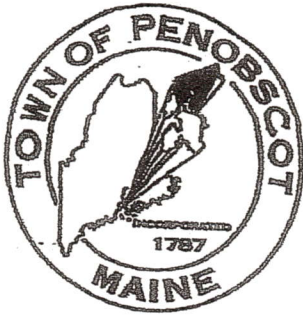
We are working with the Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development staff to relocate sand-salt storage and operations from the current site and to obtain funding and financing to build an enclosed sand-salt shed on Town land away from the marsh. Staff from The Nature Conservancy have offered advice regarding preliminary design. Maine's Department of Transportation has recommended ways of increasing public safety on heavily-traveled S.R. 175/199 across Mill Creek – a stream crossing that becomes congested with motorists who park on the roadway during the spring to observe dozens of eagles prey on alewife in the marsh.

The Penobscot Mill Creek Tidal Marsh Resilience Project offers high conservation values and demonstrates the value of public-private, federal-state and interdepartmental partnerships to conserve natural resources, increase climate resilience and improve the quality of life for our rural coastal community. We very much would appreciate receiving a letter of support from you that we can include in the application package that we will submit on Friday, September 1, 2023.


Harold Hatch, Select Board Chair


Phil Rapp, Selectman


Sara Leighton, Selectman



Town of Penobscot

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Hillary Gove
Grant Coordinator
Maine Department of Economic and Community Development
59 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

August 1, 2023

Letter of support for the Hancock County Planning Commission's application for the
Maine DECD Housing Opportunity Program Service Provider Grant

Dear Ms. Gove,

The Town of Penobscot Selectboard would like to take this opportunity to express our support for this application. The Hancock County Planning Commission is a valuable resource for small towns that lack the staff to stay current with many issues.

Workforce housing, affordable housing, lack of available housing units, and allowing our elderly residents to be able to afford to age in place are important issues for our town and most of coastal Hancock County. With this grant funding, HCPC will be in position to suggest new ways to think about housing needs and introduce strategies to address these shortages. HCPC also has the capacity to facilitate regional meetings where community partnerships may evolve.

We look forward to working with HCPC on housing opportunities and many other issues in the future. The Town of Penobscot will be depending on HCPC for technical assistance to review and amend existing ordinances to comply with P.L. 2021 Chapter 672. A successful grant award will enable HCPC to have the capacity to provide information and assistance to Hancock County towns regarding this new law.

Sincerely,

Harold a Hatch
Harold Hatch
Chair

Phil Rapp
Phil Rapp

Sara Leighton
Sara B. Leighton