

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 22, 2023

Members Present:

Hatch, Rapp, Leighton

Others Present:

Nita Weisman & Ken Okamoto

Allen Krantz

Bailey Bowden

Business:

Meeting commenced @ 7:00 PM.

Nita & Ken questioned why their property tax bill increased so much. They were provided an abatement package for their property located at 297 Wardwell Point Road; (map 8, lot 6).

Allen presented a letter of support for the Board's consideration, applying to the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program in the amount of \$304,165 for the Mill Creek Tidal Resilience Project. Board accepted the draft as written and endorsed it; copy attached. Allen will send it to the MNRCP Review Committee.

Rapp raised concern over the recent roadside grading done by MDOT, and the lack of erosion control measures especially in areas close to wetlands, streams, and the bay. Bailey also pointed out that there is significant erosion taking place along the transfer station road and at the salt pile, where recent attempts were made by the town to regrade & repair the entrance road culvert. He pointed out that we had better take care of our own work before we complain to the State about theirs. Rapp will speak to Bill Hutchins about silt fence and hay bales.

Bailey would like to see the total amount of payments made to the Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) relating to the Comprehensive Plan (CP). He was informed by HCPC that only \$8 or \$9,000 remained on their contract balance and he thought there should be much more than that. Hatch will check with Amy Dunn regarding the balance for that reserve account.

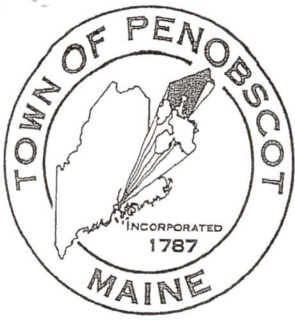
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Bailey needs printing services to provide public notice for upcoming community outreach meetings related to the CP. HE asked if the Board preferred him to use the office copier or Downeast Graphics. Board asked him to use DG.

Reviewed and approved Warrant #17 in the amount of \$443,121.51. Hatch noticed that the community donation payments were included in the Warrant with the exception of the one for the Penobscot Days Celebration in the amount of \$1,500.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.



Town of Penobscot

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August 22, 2023

To: Dawn Hollowell, Chair, Review Committee, Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program

Dear Ms. Hollowell:

We write to respectfully request support of our Town's application to the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program for \$304,165 for the Penobscot Mill Creek Tidal Marsh Resilience Project. The requested funding will restore approximately 3,200 square feet of former marshland that has been degraded by our open-air sand-salt pile and wintertime road-crew operations – a facility that we will relocate from its current condition so that we can restore the project area to its original riparian and marshland condition.

We appreciate the July 26, 2003 site visit by Kristen Puryear and Emily Carty and the resulting Site Visit Summary. The detailed information in that report provides valuable guidance that we intend to implement upon the grant of funds requested from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program.

Funding from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program will supplement and complement the guidance we have received from other entities. For example, staff from The Nature Conservancy and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust have offered advice regarding preliminary design and marsh revegetation.

A key partner is Blue Hill Heritage Trust. The project area adjoins Pierce's Pond, at the head of Mill Creek, which borders Walamatogus Mountain, protected by The Conservation Fund, soon to be transferred in fee to the Trust. Downstream, next month the Trust will acquire in fee a 7.6-acre parcel with adjoining salt marsh habitat. Upstream, the Trust also owns a 75-acre parcel that protects 2,142 feet of shoreline along Seneca Brook that empties into Pierce's Pond. We value this public-private partnership.

We are working with Maine's Department of Environmental Protection and the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development staff to relocate sand-salt storage from the current site and to obtain funding and financing from sources other than the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program to build an enclosed sand-salt pile shed on town land away from the marsh.

Full funding of the project at \$304,165 for marsh restoration will position our Town to seek and secure funding, support and technical assistance for other components of a larger project – including sand-salt pile relocation, culvert replacement, road elevation and nature-observation facilities -- from other state agencies, federal agencies and non-government sources of financial support and expertise.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Harold A. Hark
CHAIR
SELECT BOARD

Sara B. Leighton
Select Board

[Signature]