

**Town of North Yarmouth
Select Board
Meeting Minutes May 16, 2023, 6:00 PM**

Call to Order-(19:54-32:20) Members Present: Brian Sites, Chairperson, Amy Haile, Vice Chairperson, Katherine Perrin, Selectperson, and Andrea Berry, Selectperson, and Diane Barnes, Town Manager.

Paul Hodgetts, Selectperson was excused by Chairperson Sites.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Special Presentations
Spirit of America Tribute**

The 2023 North Yarmouth, Maine Spirit of America Foundation Tribute honors the North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee for commendable community service.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Select Board of the Town of North Yarmouth as follows:

WHEREAS, the North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee advises and assists the town of North Yarmouth transitioning toward a zero-waste community, examining and highlighting opportunities to minimize waste in the community.

WHEREAS, The North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee is committed to promoting best practices for how our community consumes and disposes of goods and services. Their "Plastic-Free October" initiative offered strategies to reduce reliance on single-use plastics that was shared widely throughout the community.

WHEREAS, The North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee collaborates with other groups, companies, and services to expand public access to waste reduction options such as recycling, composting, and donation. The partnership with Garbage to Garden has diverted substantial amounts of food waste from the waste stream, saving the town thousands of dollars. While the new partnership with Apparel Impact provides textile recycling for the community, offering an option for recycling worn and torn clothes, sheets, and blankets that did not exist previously.

WHEREAS, The North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee volunteers contribute many hours to host engaging events that help make reducing, reusing, and recycling accessible and fun. The Junk in the Trunk and Community Swap Shop events provided creative opportunities to share unwanted items, keeping them from the landfill. The new speakers series will bring environmentalists from across the state to our town to educate and inform community members about waste alternatives.

WHEREAS, The North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee serves the town in many and varied ways, acting as a shining example of how neighbors can work together to protect the environment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Select Board of the Town of North Yarmouth, that the North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee and its volunteers are hereby recognized for their great achievements and the honors that they have brought upon this community with the 2023 North Yarmouth Spirit of America Foundation Tribute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be framed and presented to the North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee for appropriate display.

Greely Middle School National History Day Club

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *The Greely Middle School National History Day Club have made the Community proud with their momentous wins at the Maine State History Day competition.*

WHEREAS, *The Maine State History Day competition was held at the University of Maine, Orono on April 29, 2023.*

WHEREAS, *The projects submitted to the state competition by the Greely Middle School National History Day Club covered topics about "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas", with projects exploring the Spanish Civil War, Al Capone and the Mafia, Artic exploration, the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, the atomic bomb, and Francis Glessner Lee: the founder of modern forensic science.*

WHEREAS, *At the 2023 State of Maine History Day competition, 13 students competed in six teams. Five projects placed first in their division, and one placed second in their division, all earning a chance to compete at the National History Day competition in Washington, DC. And the team exhibit "Frances Glessner Lee: Mother of Forensics" won additional recognition with the Women's History Award.*

WHEREAS, *The scholars are headed to compete representing the great State of Maine at the National History Day competition in Washington, DC on June 11-15, 2023.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *we, the Select Board of the Town North Yarmouth wish to congratulate and thank the Greely Middle School National History Day Club and their teacher, Katie Cassesse for their fine representation of the Greely Community while winning the State competition and wish them the best of luck as they head to compete at the National competition in Washington DC.*

New Business(32:21-1:44:09)

FY 24 Budget Decisions

Municipal Administration

Chairperson Sites, seconded by Selectperson Perrin moved to approve the Municipal Administration budget of \$1,480,139.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Community Services

Selectperson Berry, seconded by Vice Chairperson Haile moved to approve the Community Services budget of \$16,768.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Community Center

Vice Chairperson Haile, seconded by Selectperson Berry moved to approve the Community Center budget of \$605,318.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Committees

Selectperson Perrin, seconded by Vice Chairperson Haile moved to approve the Committees budget of \$3,400.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Public Safety

Selectperson Berry, seconded by Selectperson Perrin moved to approve the Public Safety budget of \$909,375.00 as presented. Vote 3 Yes/0 No. Vice Chairperson Haile abstained.

Public Works

Vice Chairperson Haile, seconded by Selectperson Perrin moved to approve the Public Works budget of \$950,632.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Solid Waste/Recycling

Chairperson Sites, seconded by Vice Chairperson Haile moved to approve the Solid Waste budget of \$528,780.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Capital Reserve Appropriations

Vice Chairperson Haile, seconded by Selectperson Berry moved to approve the Capital Reserve Appropriations budget of \$150,000.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Capital Reserve Expenses

Chairperson Sites, seconded by Vice Chairperson Haile moved to approve the Capital Reserve Expenses budget of \$165,864.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

ARPA Expenses

Selectperson Perrin, seconded by Selectperson Berry moved to approve the ARPA Expenses budget of \$36,573.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

TIF Expenses

Vice Chairperson Haile, seconded by Selectperson Perrin moved to approve the TIF Expenses budget of \$376,949.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Public Comments

Diane Morrison, 4 Brown Dog Drive

Had a question if it was too late to add to the TIF Budget an Economical Developer.

Chairperson Sites advised the FY24 budget is almost complete and that it was too late to add for FY24.

Revenues

Chairperson Sites, seconded by Vice Chairperson Haile moved to approve the Revenues budget of \$748,498.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

All other Revenues

Chairperson Sites, seconded by Selectperson Perrin moved to approve the All-Other Revenues budget of \$1,643,325.00 as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

The Selectboard and Budget Committee will approve the FY24 Budget Warrants on May 22, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

July 3, 2023, Office Closure

July 4th falls on a Tuesday this year, we are recommending that the Town Office, Public Works Department, and Wescustogo Hall be closed on Monday, July 3rd. Staff will use accrued vacation or earned paid leave for the absence.

Selectperson Perrin, seconded by Chairperson Sites moved to approve the July 3, 2023 office closure. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Schedule Select Board Organizational Meeting-July 10, 2023, 6pm

The first Tuesday of July falls on the Fourth of July holiday. We are recommending that the Select Board schedule the Organizational Meeting of the Select Board on Monday, July 10th at 6pm.

This meeting date was changed to July 5, 2023, 6PM due to scheduled vacations.

Chairperson Sites, seconded by Selectperson Berry moved to approve The Select Board Organizational Meeting on Wednesday July 05, 2023, at 6pm. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Consent Agenda-

Municipal Accounts Payable Warrants

#94 \$11,696.75

#95 \$65,008.59

Municipal Payroll Warrants

#96 \$43,541.80

Corrected Special Town Meeting Warrant-Municipal Election Notice-6/13/2023

Vice Chairperson Haile, seconded by Selectperson Berry moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Select Board Minutes of May 2, 2023

Selectperson Berry, seconded by Vice Chairperson Haile moved to update and approve the May 2, 2023, selectboard minutes to include adding unexcused absence for Selectperson Hodgetts to the meeting minutes. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Public Comment: (1:44:10-1:50:54)

Chairperson Sites states that the comments cannot be on agenda items and to keep under 3 minutes.

David Reed, Country Creek,

Asked where is the selectboard's policy as to what constitutes an absence for a meeting? He cannot find anything.

Chairperson Sites stated this section is for comments only.

David Reed stated his comment is that it is irresponsible for the board to apply standards that are not written down, especially when it could lead to forfeiture of a position.

Chairperson Sites stated when you are going to be absent from a meeting you notify someone, you just do not walk out. He cannot comment on what is spoken in the executive session.

Selectperson Berry stated that a regular s business meeting was scheduled after the executive session and Selectperson Hodgett's was not present and it was not an excused absence.

Chairperson Sites advised David Reed, that his 3 minutes is complete.

Mike Mallory, Walnut Hill Road

He is curious why we opted to have sidewalks going on the east side of Rt 115, which is the right-side heading toward Yarmouth. The child getting an ice cream would have to cross a Maine State Highway 8 times to get to the ice cream store and back home. He feels it would be better on the left side. He does not understand why we chose the right side.

Management Reports & Communications-(1:50:55-1:54:03)

Town Manager's Report, Diane Barnes

Casella-Automated Service-Schedule Update

Casella contacted me last week to let me know that there has been a delay in the truck delivery schedule. Estimated delivery will be in late December with a rollout date of April or May of 2024. Windham received the same news and plans are still in the works to begin the mechanical collection for both communities in the spring of 2024.

Cart Update

Falmouth, Windham, and North Yarmouth met with Toter, the preferred bidder for cart purchases. Due to the delay in starting the automated service, we have asked them if they will hold the pricing. We are waiting to hear back.

Standard Offer Electricity Supplier

Maine Power Options secured pricing from Constellation for our electricity accounts. The pricing below is based on a June 2023 meter read start date:

6 months; June 2023 – December 2023 = \$ 0.09170/kWh
18 Months; June 2023 – December 2024 = \$ 0.11200/kWh
30 Months; June 2023 – December 2025 = \$ 0.11320/kWh
42 Months; June 2023 – December 2026 = \$ 0.11140/kWh
54 Months; June 2023 – December 2027 = \$ 0.11050/kWh

The Town Manager requested permission to enter into a contract with Constellation for 54 months beginning June 2023-December 2027 at a fixed rate of \$0.11050. The average rated weight that we are paying currently is \$.16 kwh. If we were locked into the rate for the past 12 months, we would have saved \$6,000 in electricity supply portion of our bill at the WH&NYCC.

Vice Chairperson Haile, seconded by Selectperson Perrin moved to authorize the Town Manager, Diane Barnes to enter into a contract with Constellation. Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Safety Improvement for Cumberland Rd & Walnut Hill Road

The PACTS construction project was slated to begin during the week of May 22nd or May 29th. It doesn't appear that the project will start during the week of May 22nd. I am hoping to have a firm date later this week.

Candidates Night

Just a reminder that Candidates Night is scheduled for May 31st beginning at 6pm at Wescustogo Hall and North Yarmouth Community Center.

Trek Across Maine 2023

The Trek Across Maine starts on Friday, June 16th and will end on Sunday, June 18th. The cyclists will be passing through North Yarmouth on day 3 (6/18/2023) along Rts. 231 & 115.

Any Other Business(1:54:04-2:02)

Selectperson Berry advised that on September 07, 2021, the Selectboard passed the Casco Bay Rail Trail. This is now coming forward to the legislature. The legislature asked the Selectboard to provide support. Selectperson Berry wrote a letter of support, and she can share it to the selectboard and then add to the packet. The Selectboard agreed.

"Statement of Support for LD 209 submitted by the Town of North Yarmouth

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams, and Members of the Transportation Committee:

The Town of North Yarmouth respectfully submits this testimony in support of LD 209 the "Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council".

The proposed Casco Bay Rail Trail that will run from Portland to Auburn will pass directly through our community. On September 7, 2021 the North Yarmouth Select Board unanimously passed a resolution in favor of the creation of the Casco Bay Rail Trail. The Select Board continues to see the opportunity in having such a trail travel through our town.

Our townspeople are united in our passion for the vibrant and accessible parks, trails, and open spaces throughout our community. In our most recent Comprehensive Plan, community surveys showed that residents ranked scenic views, the Royal River Corridor/greenway, public access to open space, and Royal River access as important. We know that the addition of the Casco Bay Rail Trail will add to the connectivity of these community assets and will open up an additional outdoor opportunity for residents and visitors alike.

Being a rural town easily accessible to Portland, our roads are frequently used by bicyclists for both recreation and commuting. It is not uncommon during the summer months to see groups of bikers passing through our village center. Those bikers often stop and frequent local businesses for food and other amenities. Increased bike traffic will only act to increase customers at the small businesses that call North Yarmouth home.

We do not have accessible public transportation in North Yarmouth. The addition of the Casco Bay Rail Trail will likely act to improve the desirability of our town both for existing and new residents, adding in a new, safe way to access Portland and Auburn. We see this as a benefit to our climate strategy in relation to the Maine Won't Wait initiative, striving to increase bicycling as a strategy to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

In summation, the Town of North Yarmouth supports LD 209 and the creation of the Casco Bay Rail Trail and encourages the Transportation Committee to vote in favor of this initiative.

Chairperson Sites was upset with some of the activity, language, and treatment of others. The event was to provide lunch for the staff. It was supposed to honor the staff. He looks back on being chair, He feels he did poorly at calling out inappropriate behavior. The fact that people leave the meeting and do not feel safe walking to their car. He does not know where this community is going. He thought he could put a bunch of people in a room together and they would solve problems and issues. That is not happening. He is leaving the position. The pizza lunch issue upset him. Where are we going as going as a community? If we cannot build relationships, trust, and credibility we are not going to go anywhere. He had hoped to say more but he is just tired."

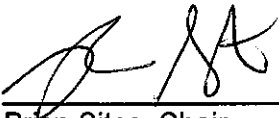
Adjournment

Chairperson Sites, seconded by Selectperson Perrin moved to adjourn at 7:50 PM.

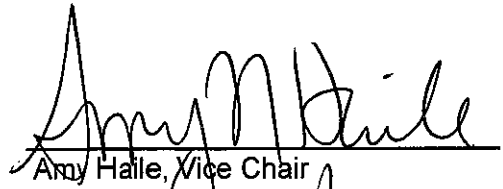
Vote 4 Yes/0 No.

Karen Casale, Recording Secretary

Select Board




Brian Sites, Chair



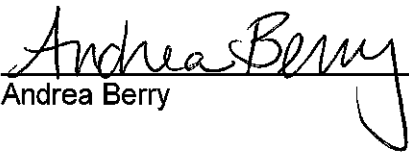
Amy Haile, Vice Chair



Paul Hodgetts



Katherine Perrin



Andrea Berry