



**TOWN OF WESTPORT ISLAND**  
**6 Fowles Point Road**  
**Westport Island, ME 04578**

Office of the Select Board, Board of Assessors, & Board of Overseers

**Town of Westport Island**  
**Selectboard, Assessors and Overseers Meeting**  
**Convened at Town Office, 6 Fowles Point Road, Westport Island, ME 04578**  
**February 19, 2024**

**Present:**

**Select Board:** Jeff Tarbox, Donna Curry, and Lisa Jonassen

**Citizens:** Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner), April Thibodeau (Town Clerk), John Henderson (Planning Board Member), Deb Lorenson (WCA), Lincoln Richardson (Shellfish Committee), Mario DePietro, Nick Pagon, Chris Wormwood, Meg Skidmore

**Guests:** Charlotte Boynton (Lincoln County News)

**Meeting Convened:** Donna called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**Business Conducted:**

**1. Warrants:**

- Donna motioned to approve Payroll Warrant #74 for \$1,885.96; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
- Donna motioned to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #75 for \$84,234.11 (RSU 12); Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
- Donna motioned to approve Payroll Warrant #76 for \$1,885.96; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
- Donna motioned to approve Payroll Warrant #77 for \$15,047.96; Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0

**2. Minutes:**

- Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the 2/5/24 Select Board Meeting; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0

**3. Citizen's Issues:**

- a. Consent Agreement between Pedro Guimares & town: Donna summarized that Pedro will apply for an after-the-fact permit for his conversion of a car port to a kitchen. Once it is approved with no charges, Pedro will drop his claims for compensation from the town for his previous website work and the use of his property as a turnaround. Mario DePietro raised concerns regarding the lack of enforcement of our ordinances. Donna and Lisa explained that this is being addressed by the Ordinance Review Committee, and they will continue to deal with issues as they arise on a case-by-case basis. Pedro stated

for the record that he does not agree with the language in the Consent Agreement but will sign it in order to put the matter to rest. Donna motioned to approve and sign the Consent Agreement; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 2-0 (Jeff recusing). Pedro also requested that the 1/2/23 minutes be changed to reflect that he did not give the town permission to use his property as a turnaround. April will look into how to correct the record.

- b. Greenleaf Rd. property cleanup: Chris Wormwood provided a timeline and estimate for the cleanup of his property. Lisa thanked Chris for working with the town on this. Chris shared that he would like to add some temporary garage structures to his property. Donna advised him to follow up with CEO Gary Richardson. Donna made a motion to approve Chris' plan to cleanup his property; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
4. Report from Westport Community Association (WCA): Meg Skidmore, WCA President, & Deb Lorenson WCA Co-President gave an update on the activities of the organization. The WCA was formed in 1955 and became a 501c3 more recently. Their mission is to promote activities to benefit Westport Island. Recent activities include:
- a. Owner and caretaker of the Community Church, which was built in the 1800s and is on the National Historic Register. The WCA hopes to put the church to more use.
  - b. Ruth Nelson Scholarship program offering up to \$500 to residents pursuing higher education. There were 12 recipients in 2023.
  - c. Monthly newsletter started during COVID by Rose Bodmer mailed to all residents. Rose is no longer able to do this, and the WCA is seeking help to be able to continue the newsletter.
  - d. Many events in 2023, including a chili cookoff, game nights, movie night, pancake breakfast, spring fling dance, plant sale, Island-wide yard sale, local meet and greet, Ferry Landing rock concert, Halloween event, and a holiday ornament making and tree lighting event.
  - e. In Dec. 2023 they sent out a donation letter and have raised over \$8,000.
  - f. In 2024 they've already held another chili cook off, a Valentines Dance, and two game days.
  - g. Their 2024 goals include:
    - i. Greater turnout to events through more promotion
    - ii. Soliciting community feedback by providing their email address in the town's email newsletters and possibly putting a suggestion box in the Town Office.
    - iii. Possible future events include showcasing island artists through a gallery event, more outdoor sports activities, community garden, art classes, and a scaled down annual BBQ.
    - iv. Lisa asked about the WCA online auction. It has been put on hold due to a lack of products to auction and the amount of work required. They may restart it on a more occasional basis.
5. Report from Friends of Westport Island History (FOWIH): Mary Ellen Barnes, Chair of FOWIH reported on their recent activities. FOWIH was formed as a non-profit in fall 2018 after discussion by the History Committee on how to raise more funds to

better preserve the town's historical documents and artifacts. There is a lot of overlap between FOWIH and the History Committee, but the two are separate entities. There is a Memo of Understanding that delineates FOWIH and the History Committee and describes how they work together. Since FOWIH can get grants and fundraise, they play a large role in maintaining the History Center at the Wright House. Soon they will have a website and be able to share their online catalogue of historic documents and artifacts.

6. Report from Shellfish Committee: Chair Lincoln Richardson and member Nick Pagon reported that the Shellfish Committee has been focused on their work to combat green crabs in McCarty Cove. They received a mini-grant to study and try to mitigate this issue. They have trapped over 29,000 green crabs which were donated to a local farm as compost. They will also seed clams. They tested the green crab population at the beginning of their efforts, and will test again at the end to gauge progress. Lincoln requested that someone be appointed as the Select Board representative to the Committee. April volunteered since she works with the Committee to draft and submit their reports already.
7. Report from the Ordinance Review Committee: Member John Henderson reported that the Planning Board is closing in on a final draft of their proposed Building Code Ordinance to address the new requirements of LD 2003. The Ordinance Review Committee is also finalizing a new Nuisance Ordinance. Lisa is working on an Animal Control Ordinance. At this point the Committee is working out details in preparation for a public hearing on the new and revised ordinances as we get closer to Town Meeting in June.
8. Roads: Jim Cromwell reported that there have been some small snowstorms, but nothing major. Dale Reno is doing a good job of keeping the roads clear and communicating with town residents. Mario DePietro wants his road sign moved and Jim will get to it when the ground is no longer frozen. Jim has come up with a rough draft of a proposed driveway entrance application to go along with a Roads Ordinance that the Ordinance Review Committee is working on. Improperly installed private driveways can cause the town significant expense. Having an application process will make sure it's done right. The roads are posted. If the temperature is below freezing, heavy loads are okay.
9. Administrative Items
  - a. Chris Cooper payment for moderating 2/24/24 Special Town Meeting: Donna motioned to allocate \$200 + mileage; Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
10. Other Legal Business
11. Adjournment: Donna motioned to adjourn; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote: 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by April Thibodeau, Town Clerk

A True Copy, Attest: \_\_\_\_\_