

Approved 10/17/18
Town of Owls Head
Planning Board Meeting Minutes
(Wednesday, November 15, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.)

Board Present: Vice-Chair William Leppanen, Dale Martin, and Marc McNeilly

Board Absent: Larry Choate and Ken Wexler

Staff Present: CEO Scott Bickford and Recording Secretary Deborah Sealey

Vice-Chair Leppanen opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

1. Officers

Mr. Leppanen said not all members were here this evening and none who was wanted to be Chair.

ACTION: Dale Martin made a motion, seconded by Marc McNeilly, to table electing a new Chair until we have a full Board.
Carried 3-0-0

CEO Bickford said the Board should try to find a member and an alternate.

II. Approve Minutes: 10/18/17

ACTION: Marc McNeilly made a motion, seconded by Dale Martin, to accept the minutes of the 10/18/17 meeting as presented.
Carried 3-0-0

III. New Business

1. Discuss an Ordinance for Domestic Fowl

Mr. Bickford noted that members had been given a possible draft of domestic fowl ordinance at the last meeting. Mr. Leppanen said Town Attorney Fred Newcomb had researched a similar ordinance in Rockland and in a 10/12/17 letter had outlined two ways in which Owls Head could deal with domestic fowl.

In response to a question from Mr. Martin, CEO Bickford said it was not necessary to have a permit in order to keep chickens in Owls Head. If it were a business and kept low-key, there would also be no need for a permit.

The CEO offered two suggestions as to how to deal with this issue: 1) convene a workshop on the issue, or 2) recommend that the Select Board give it to the Ordinance Committee. Mr. McNeilly opted for the second option. Mr. Martin said the town shouldn't be drafting a new ordinance now when only one person had complained but was not present tonight. Mr. Leppanen said people should speak to their neighbors if they were offended.

ACTION: Dale Martin made a motion, seconded by Marc McNeilly, to table the discussion until the Board got more members and learned more about it.
Carried 3-0-0

2. Discuss a Minor Change to the Floodplain Ordinance

CEO Bickford explained that architect John Hansen had been working on a project before the new Floodplain Ordinance went into effect. The new version said his project wouldn't work because only 150' of latticework could be applied below the lowest floor. This meant Mr. Hansen could not enclose his project all the way around, according to the State.

The CEO had given the Board a draft of a proposed change to the ordinance that would advise developers to check flood insurance rates before starting construction. Mr. Bickford said such a change would have to go to the voters, but not back to the Feds. MDEP's Sue Baker had said the State would approve such a change.

ACTION: Marc McNeilly made a motion, seconded by Dale Martin, to recommend we accept the proposed change and go to voters at the next town meeting and get the approval of Floodplain Management.
Carried 3-0-0

Vice-Chair Leppanen asked if there was anything else that might require a special town meeting. Mr. Bickford replied that if Dick Carver received a grant from the Feds for improvements to the public access ramp that would also require a vote.

3. Updates to Shoreland Zone Ordinance

The CEO said the Shoreland Zone Ordinance needed to be updated to adjust to new State guidelines. The State said the minimums would have to be adopted, but had not said how quickly it must be done. He would give copies of the new version to Board members and suggested they pass them on to the Ordinance Committee.

IV. Adjournment

ACTION: Dale Martin made a motion, seconded by Marc McNeilly, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.
Carried 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sealey
Recording Secretary

Town Of Owls Head Planning Board:

William Leppanen, Vice-Chair

Larry Choate

Dale Martin

Marc McNeilly

Ken Wexler