

TOWN OF CUSHING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 13, 2020  
Cushing Community Center

**Selectmen Present:** Chair Alton Grover; Selectmen Corey Jones, Laurie Haynes, and Martha Marchut

**Selectmen Absent:** Dan Staples

**Staff Present:** Town Clerk Lisa Young

**Public Present:** Jeff Shroeder

**1. Call to Order:** Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and a quorum was determined.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

**3. Approve and sign the Warrant:**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to approve 2019 Warrant 52 and 2020 Warrants 50, 51, and 52.

**Discussion:** Lisa noted she had to call Trio about the new Sequel program and why the warrant numbers did not restart as they usual do

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

**4. Review and approve the minutes of the December 23, 2019 meeting**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded Laurie Haynes, to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2019 meeting as written.

**Discussion:** none

**Motion Carried 3-0-1, Martha abstained as she was absent from that meeting**

**5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:**

**5a. Budget Meeting**

**ACTION:**

**Discussion:** Martha said that Dan had wanted to ask about holding the budget meeting on Monday morning. Alton questioned it being on a weekday. Martha said yes as they may need Lisa, and it's just the preliminary meeting. Laurie and Corey said they could go. Laurie pointed out that is Martin Luther King Day, the Board decided to move the meeting to Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 am.

## 5b. ACO resignation

### ACTION:

**Discussion:** Lisa informed the Board that Bill Demmons, animal control officer, handed in his resignation letter today effective January 31, 2020. Laurie asked if there was a reason. Lisa read that the letter said due to some unforeseen circumstances. Laurie hoped that he was okay. Lisa said he had some unpleasant issues dealing with dogs and that he doesn't need to deal with it.

## 6. Unfinished Business:

### 6a. Stones Point Fence protocol

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Corey said he had added this to the agenda because he thought the Board was collecting estimates on the repairs to the fence but then Dan had told Larry Miller to go ahead with it. Corey said it was never voted on and he hadn't heard anything about it just because it was under the \$1,000. Laurie said they still have until Spring. Corey said Dan already told Larry to go ahead and he already has the wood cut and painted for the fence. Corey added it was a good price, cheaper than the estimate he had sent to Lisa from somebody, but it goes back to the protocol we talk about. Martha suggested having it on the agenda next meeting to discuss the protocol, so it doesn't happen again. Laurie asked if a letter had been sent to the homeowner yet. Corey said yes, Dan had written one. Lisa said she put it out for the Board to read.

### 5b. Oldest male in Cushing (Boston Cane)

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said the last meeting Dan had said he was going to check around and see how other towns handle the Boston Cane. The Board decided to put it on agenda for next meeting when Dan is back.

### 5c. Claybrook Landscaping

### ACTION:

**Discussion:** Lisa said they are the business that was hired to fix the field down at the Rec when part of the job was not finished. She said she sent him the certified letter, but it was never picked up and wants to know what the Board would like her to do now. Corey asked about costs to have Knox County serve it, do they do that. Laurie said they do serve subpoenas and stuff like that. Lisa said she thought the letter mentioned something about going to pursue legal. Alton said you could mail it regular but there's no guarantee he gets it. Corey agreed saying that's why the only way to know would be have the Sherriff deliver it. Lisa said Dan had mentioned talking to him at one point because he knew him. Martha said to check with the Sherriff Department and see if it's something they do. Lisa said some of the information in there may be out of date. Martha read, "to resolve this problem we ask you to contact our office as soon as possible to set a specific day in the Spring for the work to be done. We will wait until December 20, 2019 for you to contact us before contacting third party assistance." Martha said she knew that wasn't the exact letter that ended up being sent, Lisa added it didn't have the December 20 as it wasn't received by then. Lisa asked about giving him the same letter. Corey thought that was good because it showed it was unclaimed so would look worse on him. Martha said you could put a little note in it saying it wasn't picked up therefore we are having it delivered. Laurie said having an officer at the door would be statement enough, Alton added for some people. Martha added that's why she mentioned the note to

soften it a little, so it doesn't turn into something. Corey said the biggest thing is to get him the letter, then the ball is in his court, until he has the letter there isn't much we can do about it.

#### **5d. Cemetery on Killeran Lane**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Alton asked if the Weisert's (cemetery committee) were coming, Laurie said she never asked them to. This was decided to be added to the next meeting's agenda as well.

#### **7. New Business:**

##### **7a. Review request to use the Cushing Community Center**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve the use of the Cushing Community meeting room to Jeff Shroeder for an oyster farm informative meeting pending proof of insurance

**Discussion:** Laurie asked if it was available that day, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Lisa said it is. Laurie asked if he had insurance and said it would be needed, adding it's a pretty easy thing to get, but can't be used without it. Jeff Schroeder asked what type of insurance is needed. Lisa answered it's an event liability insurance. Lisa asked if he had talked to Austin, Jeff said he knows about it and will try to be there, but it won't be sponsored by him. Laurie said if you call your own insurance agency and explain what you need they can probably do it and it's fairly inexpensive.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

##### **7b. Review and approve annual Policy Regarding Check Disbursement Prior to Expenditure Warrant Approval**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to approve the annual Policy Regarding Check Disbursement Prior to Expenditure Warrant Approval

**Discussion:** Lisa said nothing has changed. She did say that she added Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer as Corey has mentioned which was a good idea. Lisa said if something happened to her, such as death, the Deputy Treasurer would need to be appointed Treasurer, she is under the Treasurer, so if she [Lisa] left tomorrow she couldn't remain Deputy Treasurer. Corey said he was only referring to Lisa being away on vacation and things being able to be paid.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

##### **7c. Review and approve 2020 Holiday Schedule**

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve the 2020 Holiday schedule

**Discussion:** Lisa said it is all the same holidays as last year, she just wanted to be sure that the two Selectman meetings that fell on holidays, meetings would be moved to the following day, Tuesday, like they were last year.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

## 7d. Email exchange between Randy Martin & Austin Donaghy

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Laurie asked to back track, she asked Alton to look at what she had circled and asked if he had said that. Alton said he did, but there's a story to it. He said it was back in the fall when everything was muddy and wanting to bring it out back of his house, Alton said if he couldn't get it there right now don't worry about it until it freezes. Laurie thought it sounded as though it had just happened. Alton said no, it didn't just happen, it was last fall. Laurie said she felt that Austin was feeling that we [the Board] aren't backing him. Alton said he wished Austin had come tonight, Laurie agreed. She questioned if it sounded recent, Martha agreed it did sound as though it had just happened or was just said. Alton said it was said a couple months ago, probably October. He said it was muddy and there was no way he was going to get it out back of his house. Laurie said we really needed to leave this in Austin's hands; she feels as he could just quit someday if we don't support what he's doing, who wants that job anyway. Alton said Dan had agreed, saying if he can't get it out back of his house what's the point, you can't put it just anywhere. Laurie said Alton should touch base with Austin and let him know it happened last fall, and not last week, as she thinks that was the way he took it. Alton said it should be froze up and able to get moved out back of his house now anyway. He agreed to reach out to Austin.

## 7e. Driver Training

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa wanted to share with the Board something received from Maine Municipal Association, Property and Casualty. She was reading where they have a desktop simulator from Virtual Driver Interactive where you can have training that is self-paced and very realistic which makes it a great hands on training tool that will provide helpful reminders to both new and experienced drivers on why they need to use more caution when driving. The ten progressive and interactive scenarios review the dangers of distracted driving, the benefits of increasing breaking distance between vehicles and the effects of weather on driving. She said you can contact the loss control department if interested in using the tool. Laurie suggested the info could be passed on to the Fire Department, Lisa agreed that's what she had thought of too, and thought it sounded kind of neat. Martha said agreed, especially now that they are having younger drivers.

## 7f. Town Debit Card

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to allow Lisa to use the Town's debit card for ordering supplies from Wal- Mart.

**Discussion:** Lisa asked the Board's thoughts on using the Town's debit card to order supplies online. She said they had been price matching cleaning supplies, paper towels, and such, and if found cheaper on Wal Mart, if the Board approved of her ordering them from them with the card instead of ordering through Staples with the usual account. Laurie agreed, adding whichever is the best deal.

### **Motion Carried 4-0-0**

**8. Comments from Citizens:** Jeff Shroeder introduced himself to the Board and spoke briefly about his plans for his Oyster Farm business. He said they just moved to Maine last summer after he retired from twenty years in the Army. He said they chose Maine as their retirement State and his wife received a job

in Camden in which brought them to this area. He said is interested in starting the Oyster Farm in Broad Cove, taking over for Jim Taylor who has the lease now. He said the Farm will be right on top of where Peter McBean's farm had been from about 2003-2015 or so. He said he has made out the lease application with DMR which is in the process of being approved hopefully. He said he wants to have an informational meeting with the residents of Broad Cove to answer any questions they might have. He said the Farm itself would be more than 1200 ft offshore, but he wants to provide information and answer questions. He said he sent out a letter to some residents introducing himself and giving a quick run down of the business. He said now that the meeting space is approved, he will send out another letter with that information; he said Austin will be invited and the Board is invited to attend too if they would like. He said he has taken an online agriculture course and has been working with a company in Damariscotta the past five months to get experience, and feels he has enough knowledge to set up a farm and be able to dedicate his time. He said the lease would be a four-acre lease for three years, and that it would take about 2-3 years for the oysters to grow to size to be able to sell. He said he had checked with Kip's Seafood, and spoke with Mike Benner, to make sure it wouldn't interfere with the lobsterman or anyone at all. Alton said he has never heard of any interference or complaints before. Jeff said he feels as the oyster industry begins to grow you will see more farms popping up, he said this would be the only one in the St. George River at this point.

## 9. Adjourn

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones  
Recording Secretary