

**Town Council Meeting
Minutes
October 28, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

Roll Call

All Councilors were present and answering roll call.

Councilor Goldberg moved to take item 7 out of order; Councilor Orestis seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Pierce led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 7 Order to adopt the 2013 Comprehensive Plan, as prepared by the Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) and revised by the Community Development Committee (CDC), dated September 23, 2013.

Councilor Farber moved the order; Councilor King seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Chair Pierce left the meeting.

Item 1 Public Forum

Mike Doyle of Shady Lane spoke about police activity at the West School, which is operating out of the Plummer building. He was concerned about police coverage in Falmouth if events like this continue at the school and take up a number of officers.

**Item 2 (a) Order to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2013, Town
(Consent Agenda) Council Workshop Meeting.**

Councilor Mahoney moved the order; Councilor Anderson seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

**Item 2 (b) Order to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2013, Town
(Consent Agenda) Council Special Meeting.**

Councilor Mahoney moved the order; Councilor Goldberg seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

**Item 2 (c) Order to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2013, Town
(Consent Agenda) Council Meeting.**

Councilor Anderson moved the order, Councilor Goldberg seconded.

Councilor Farber amended the minutes. Amended minutes carried 6-0.

Item 3 Report from Council Committees and liaisons regarding updates on assignments.

Councilor Anderson said the final public meeting on Route 1 was held last week; he felt they are making good progress on going out to bid in November/December. They are dealing with an issue with the Portland Water District about the large water main that runs below Route 1, and are working with CMP on the final totals for burying electrical lines. Those totals should be available in late November.

Councilor King said REAC is planning outreach activities for the fall/winter, including a couple movies to be shown at the library and a home energy fair in January. Ecomaine had a good fiscal year last year, and so they have lowered the assessment and tipping fees for the member communities, including Falmouth.

Councilor Mahoney said the Council spent the afternoon with the LMAC and he thanked members Dave Gagnon, Fred Masciangelo, Jed Harris, Ted Asherman and Caleb Hemphill for giving the Council their time today.

Councilor Goldberg said the School Board is pleased with the interest rates they were able to get on the school bonds. Superintendent Barbara Powers will retire this July. A survey on the essential qualities and characteristics residents want in a new superintendent has been posted on the school's website. It only has 5 questions, and he encouraged residents to fill it out.

Councilor Farber said there is a finance committee meeting on Wednesday November 13 at 5pm. The Falmouth Memorial Library Trustees are having another public meeting on October 30 at 6pm to talk about the preliminary design of the library. It is open to the public.

Item 4 Report from the Appointments Committee and order relative to filling various vacancies on Boards and Committees.

Councilor Farber moved to approve the appointments as recommended by the committee:

- Andrea Mittleider to PAC-PAC for a term from 10/28/2013 – 12/31/2016
- Barbara Dibiase to REAC for a term from 10/28/2013 – 12/31/2015
- Wendy Paradis to the Board of Zoning appeals as an alternate member.

Councilor King seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Item 5 Discussion about future bridge (railroad crossing) needs at the Town owned River Point parcel.

Town Manager Nathan Poore said the project was presented at two different Council meetings in the spring. He is recommending that the Council send this out to bid for designs for either a one-way bridge that would allow for light vehicles, or a 7-9' wide bridge for foot traffic/small machine traffic only.

Councilor Anderson said the report referred to a 20-ton weight limit; he asked if that was what was meant by a "light vehicle".

Mr. Poore said he considered that a heavier vehicle, but it is possible any bridge they install might allow for a higher weight limit than they are looking for because of the span and dimensions of the crossing.

The consensus of the Council was for staff to seek out bids for the two different designs.

Councilor Goldberg moved to reopen public forum to allow further public comment in deference to the fact that the meeting started earlier than was publicized; Councilor Orestis seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Mark Porada of Spoonrift Road spoke on behalf of the Library Board of Trustees and thanked the Council for its support of their expansion plans. They are nearing the end of the design phase, and he invited all community members to the final public forum on Wednesday, October 30, from 6-8pm at the library. Scott Simmons Architects will be facilitating the meeting and will use any information and comments at that meeting toward their final conceptual plans, which will be presented to the Council at its meeting on November 13.

Item 6 Order to authorize the Town Manager to execute documentation to allow Maine Audubon to install up to four (4) 20' x 22' photovoltaic panels on its property for energy production and educational programming purposes.

Theo Holtwijk, Director of Long-range Planning, said this project was originally slated to go to the Code Officer for a building permit, but it was discovered that the property in question was subject to deed restrictions. These restrictions require them to obtain the written permission of the Town in order to install structures on this particular piece of the property. This permission would be specific to this project, allowing up to 4 solar panels to be installed, and would not be a blanket release on the property.

Councilor Farber opened a public comment period; no public comment.

Councilor Mahoney moved the order; Councilor King seconded.

Councilor Anderson asked how tall the poles that support the panels would be.

Ted Koffman, Executive Director of Maine Audubon, said they will be about 18 feet high. The panels will be at a 43 degree angle or less. The panels track the sun so they are more efficient than fixed panels.

Councilor Mahoney said this was a great project and commended the Maine Audubon.

Councilor King asked if they have an estimate of the output of the panels.

Mr. Kauffman said they expected about 60 kWh to be generated by the project. There are more panels than just those being approved tonight; the others are being installed on land not subject to the deed restrictions. Altogether, the panels will generate about 70% of their energy needs, and they hope to install wind generators as well. Their goal is to be at a net zero for energy use.

Motion carried 6-0.

Adjourn

Councilor Mahoney moved to adjourn; Councilor Orestis seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Tryon
Recording Secretary