

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
John M. Young MINUTES  
Administrator May 26, 2010

*Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with Selectmen Perkins, Pye, and Read in attendance.*

## **I. Meetings and Hearings**

1. Meet with John Bradford concerning the possibility of an archeological dig along Fort Baldwin Road.

**Mr. Bradford provided a handout (attached) displaying the Fort St. George layout which is partially located within the property currently owned by Sam White and within Fort Baldwin Road which is a town way. He stated that Archeologist Brian Brain and his crew, of which he is one, would like permission from the Town to conduct a dig on the Town property. He said that they would not dig within the roadbed or banking and they also would not be digging on State property. He added that only 10% of the Fort site has been dug and that the sections of Fort St. George on Mr. White's property and the Town property are very important for research. He mentioned that this is the same group that has conducted previous digs on the site.**

**Selectman Perkins asked how long the dig would take and whether traffic would be restricted. Mr. Bradford replied that they intended to dig during the month of June. However, with Mr. White's permission they could extend the time frame. Also, there will be no traffic restrictions. He added that Mr. White would be demolishing a house on Fort Baldwin Road starting in July.**

**Bob Butler stated that there was a good relationship between those conducting the dig and the community. They will work together to minimize the number of parking spaces used and in the past 3 spaces were set aside for the archeologists to park at Fort Baldwin. The archeologists will not encourage school bus visits and will keep Fort Baldwin Road open. Mr. Bradford added that this dig is not going to be publicized and they will only have 6 to 8 people working on the dig. They will park at Fort Baldwin if there is room, if not they will park at the Popham Chapel.**

**Selectman Pye, Historic Preservation Commission Member Merry Chapin, and Road Commissioner Doughty were in favor of the dig.**

**Mr. Bradford added that they would be starting the dig on Monday and would basically be on site Mondays through Fridays with an occasional weekend. Also, any artifacts found on town property would be cleaned, verified, and then turned over to the Town.**

**Selectmen voted (3-0) to allow the archeological dig along Fort Baldwin Road. They will require that those participating in the dig sign a liability release for the Town.**

## **II. Unfinished Business**

1. Discuss the Cat Cove property transfer.

**Peter Roberts, Chairman of the Town Landing Committee, gave a briefing on the Cat Cove property transfer. Administrator Young recommended that all parties sign quit claim deeds for the swap. Selectmen voted (3-0) to proceed with the quit claim deeds.**

**Mr. Roberts reported that Meadowbrook Landing was in need of some general maintenance work and that Road Commissioner Doughty had given him an estimate. He added that they try to do this maintenance every year which includes replacing damaged planks, replacing the crushed stone between the planks, and shoring up the sides. Selectmen approved the maintenance.**

**Anna Varian, Town Lands Management Committee, asked if the Palmer site on Route 209 was going to be mowed. Mr. Roberts stated that this has not been discussed. However, they have Brian Coffin mowing the Alliquippa Landing and he will be checking out the Meadowbrook Landing to see if it needs to be mowed. Selectman Perkins stated that the Selectmen will leave it up to Ms. Varian and Mr. Roberts to work out the details of mowing the Palmer lot.**

**Mr. Roberts reported that the Town Landings Committee has authorized Ron Beal to survey the Parker Head Landing to ascertain the boundaries because there is a chance that the current steps in the vicinity of the southern line may be on private property.**

## **III. New Business**

1. Accept a donation check from the Phippsburg Land Trust in lieu of taxes.

**Land Trust members Bill Carney, Orman Hines and Brenda Cummings were present. Mr. Carney explained that he was asked by the Land Trust Board of Directors to present their annual donation in lieu of taxes in a public setting. He explained that 10 years have gone by since the State passed the Open Space law which would require a tax payment of \$700 for their 470 acres. Instead, they are tax exempt and make an annual donation to offset the loss in taxes well beyond the \$700. The Selectman voted (3-0) to accept a donation of \$7,060 in lieu of taxes.**

**Mr. Carney mentioned that a parcel of property on Elbow Hill had recently been donated to the Land Trust. Mr. Hines added that 6 or 7 Morse freshman have been helping to clean up trails and that Elbow Hill has a new trail**

2. Consider an application for the Lobster House Restaurant annual liquor license.

**Selectman reviewed the application. There have been no complaints received concerning the establishment. Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve and sign the application.**

3. Consider an application from Small Point Summer School to have a one time "Casino Night fundraiser (Application for a License to Operate Beano/Bingo or a game of chance).

**Selectman Perkins explained that the Summer School hosts these types of events to raise funds for building maintenance. Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve and sign the application.**

4. Discuss the use of Skype teleconferencing at meetings.

**Administrator Young explained that he had received a request to allow Skype teleconference participation by Merry Chapin because she was out of the State. He added that the Town's wireless network was encrypted and he had issues with allowing access to it by people with personal computers. His major concern was computer security.**

**Selectman Perkins stated that it was a fantastic tool for education in many schools. However, he was concerned that the Selectmen's meetings are usually "one on one" with those who wish to speak attending the meetings and he was afraid that might be lost. If this was allowed for one person it would have to be allowed for everyone and he could see a major shift on how the meetings would be run. He added that if someone was talking on the computer screen they could be influenced by someone outside the camera range. This might be OK for an informational meeting, but it would be too much of a shift in the way business is conducted.**

**Selectman Pye stated that the Selectmen could set the Skype criteria in advance and only use it in a rare situation.**

**Selectman Read felt that it could cause a difficult situation because people would not see the speaker on television.**

**Selectman Perkins stated that during his time as a Selectman they have only used a phone conference once during a meeting and he does not want to conduct Selectman's meetings through telecommunications. He added that he is just referring to Selectmen's meetings. He stated that he would like to see an up or down vote on the subject. Selectman Pye replied that the use of teleconferencing should be considered on a "case by case" basis and only if a necessity.**

**Selectman Read stated that teleconferencing could be considered in the case that a person is disabled or sick and can't make a meeting. He made a motion to table discussion until the Selectmen have more information. Selectman Perkins agreed, however Selectman Pye recommended that a decision be made.**

**Selectman voted (2-1, Selectman Pye against) to table the issue pending further research.**

5. Discuss having a public hearing to consider raising the parking ticket fees from \$15.00 to \$30.00.

**Selectman Perkins read a request from Police Chief Skroski because he was unable to attend. Chief Skroski stated in his letter that he had conducted a straw poll vote at a Town Meeting several years ago and the voters were overwhelmingly supportive of increasing the Town's parking fines from \$15.00 to \$25.00. He also recommended increasing the fine for "obstructing a public way" from \$25.00 to \$50.00. He mentioned that the parking fine at the Town Landings and Totman Preserve were set at \$50.00 in the respective ordinances. The letter also stated that the fines do not fund the Police Department – they go into surplus.**

**Administrator Young stated that an advertised public hearing would need to take place and then the Selectmen could vote to change the fees.**

**Selectmen Perkins mentioned a discussion the Board had at last weeks meeting concerning businesses parking vehicles in Popham. Lee Rainey (CEO) recommended having an informal workshop with the businesses.**

**Anna Varian stated that some of those parking cars are private property owners and not businesses. Mr. Rainey will contact those who are parking vehicles and set up a workshop date. Mr. Rainey and Marie Varian, Planning Board Chair, will be invited to attend.**

#### **IV. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements**

1. Administrator Young

**Administrator Young announced upcoming meetings and events.**

2. Selectman Pye

**Selectman Pye thanked Chilloa Young, Mike Young and Everett Perkins for placing flags and holders on the graves of veterans for Memorial Day.**

3. Selectman Perkins

**Selectman Perkins stated that he was approached by James McGuiggan, a Bath resident, who machines ceremonial cannons. He was firing his ceremonial cannon in Bath and discovered that there is an ordinance against it. He had asked Selectman Perkins if Phippsburg also had an ordinance restricting the firing of his cannon. Mr. Rainey replied that it was not restricted by ordinance. Selectman Perkins stated that Mr. McGuiggan would call Police Chief Skroski several days ahead of time if he was going to fire his cannon. Selectman Read asked if any state permits were required to which Selectman Perkins replied "not to his knowledge". Selectmen stated that the Town had no noise ordinance so Mr. McGuiggan should be all set.**

#### **V. Public Forum**

1. Peter Roberts

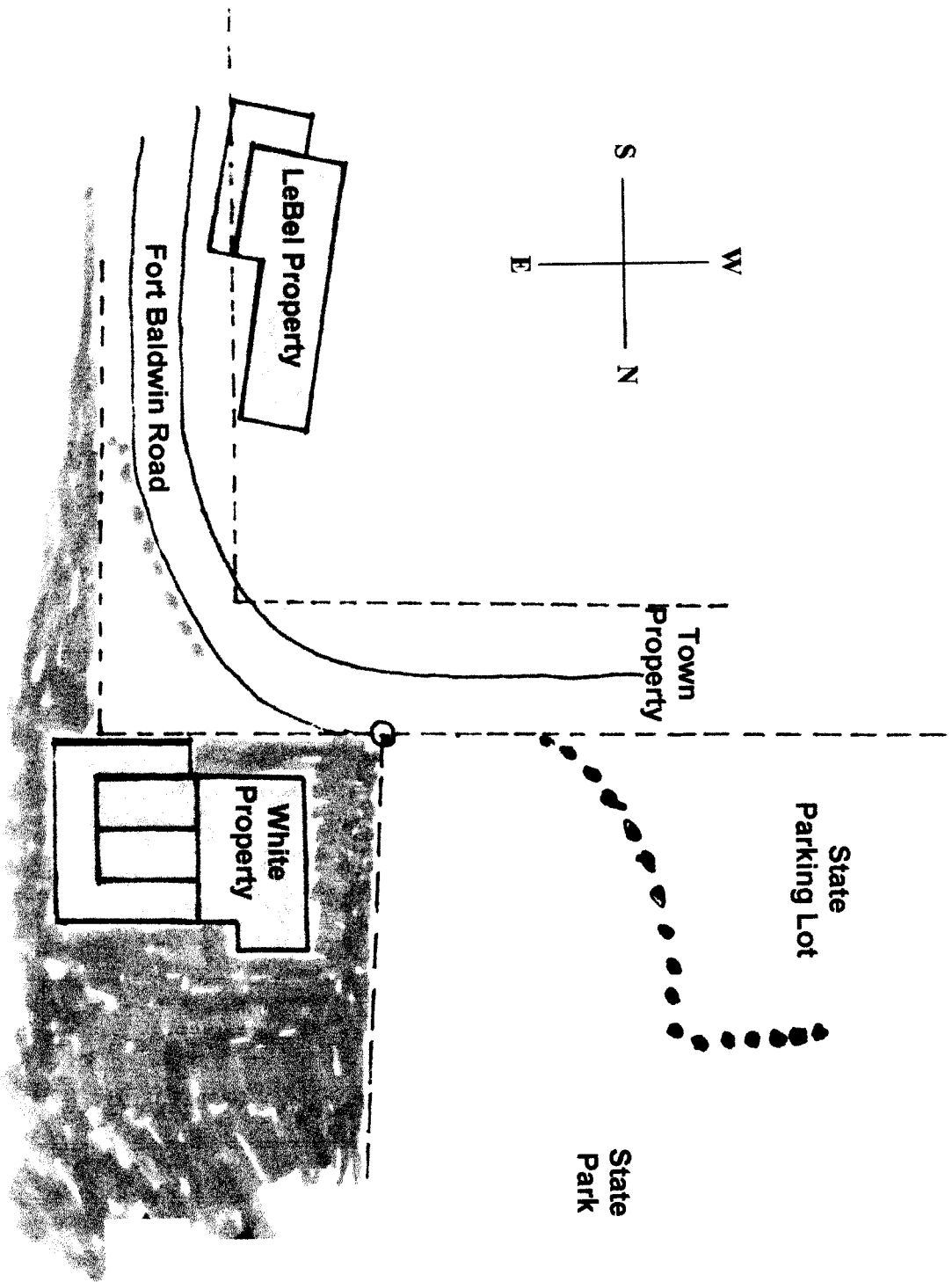
**Mr. Roberts reported that the Town had received an e-mail from Mike Morse at DEP approving the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance amendments concerning town landings which passed vote at the May annual town meeting.**

#### **VI. Review and Sign:**

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
2. Minutes

**Selectmen voted (3-0) to approve and sign all the above.**

#### **VII. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.**



J.W. Bradford  
May 23, 2010

