

Town of Frenchboro

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Select Board
Joe Lunt
Chris Hodgkins
Myron Lenfestey
Jackie Mitchell
Larry Smith

Town Administrator
Rick Erb

Select Board Meeting

August 10, 2026
5:00 pm

Larry Smith, Chris Hodgkins, Jackie Mitchell, and Joe Lunt were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

Minutes from Last Meeting: The 7/20/26 minutes were taken up. Motion to accept by Joe Lunt, seconded by Chris Hodgkins and approved 4-0.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be on 8/24/2026 at 5:00 pm.

Ferry Service: At the opening of the meeting, Jan Keiper reported on ferry matters, including questions previously raised about who is responsible for repairs to the ferry wharf. This includes damage that was done by a winter storm two years ago. The Town and the Ferry Service haven't located any memorandum of understanding that clearly delineates responsibility. Jan reported that Swans Island representatives to the ferry advisory group are still pushing for changes that would reduce service to Frenchboro on Thursday afternoons. Frenchboro has consistently opposed this, and the Select Board concurred that this is still their position. Frenchboro representatives to the advisory committee will work on drafting a proposal that is more acceptable.

Warrant & Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Daniel Swain joined the meeting and reviewed the warrant, which was then approved by the Board. There was an update regarding progress on the 2024 audit. This confirmed that some grant money in 2024 wasn't expended until 2025. It was agreed that the full financial reports from the Treasurer will be regularly scheduled for the second meeting of the month.

Church Community Funding Applications: Larry Smith presented information on applications related to fencing at the transfer station and public restroom repairs. This pointed out the need for a line item in the budget that includes repairs and maintenance of the restrooms.

Head of the Harbor: The project timeline and funding were discussed. Grants include \$140,000 from FEMA and another \$500,000 from a congressional appropriation. Concern was expressed over the bid schedule which is now projected to be put out in the first week of September. Environmental permits will require us to wait until November to begin construction.

Town Property Sale: The Administrator discussed possible commission terms from Brooke Knights and a role for Lauren Jennings assisting with the sale.

Submerged Land Lease: Larry Smith discussed the need to provide accurate measurements at zero tide for permitting that is handled through the Maine Bureau of Parks.

Town Building Improvements: Alan Duchesne will be on the island during the week of August 12th and will evaluate repair work at the municipal building and at the public restrooms.

Road Work: Austin Soucy has completed work on town roads and it was suggested that we inform the public that the Select Board is making an effort to address longstanding road problems by repairing culverts and carrying out ditch work.

Library: Tammy Smith spoke with the Board about including library information on the Town website with clarification that the library is a separate entity.

Dredging: It was reported that the Army Corps will be present this week to do a survey on eel grass as part of the dredge permitting. The Corps indicates that the project isn't likely to be carried out until winter 2028-29. They are unsure at this time whether there will be a financial commitment for matching funds from the Town. The Town will be responsible for temporarily relocating moorings. Docks and other objects intruding into the channel are yet to be addressed by the Army Corps, but it's likely that they will be prior to the project.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Joe Lunt moved to adjourn. Seconded by Chris Hodgkins and unanimously approved at 6:10 pm.

