

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

April 6, 2026
5:00 pm

Joe Lunt, Myron Lenfestey, Jackie Mitchell, and Larry Smith were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

Minutes from Last Meeting: Motion to accept the 3/23/26 minutes by Joe Lunt and seconded by Larry Smith. Approved 4-0.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be on 4/20/2026 at 5:00 pm

Warrant & Treasurer's Report: There was no warrant for this meeting, but Treasurer Daniel Swain was in attendance by Zoom. He reported that there has been progress on the 2023 audit. It is likely to be completed before the Town Meeting, but not in time to be included in the town report. However, the 2022 audit will be in the report. It was reported that more vendor payments are being made electronically now and that this is reducing the number of late payments and epenaltis being incurred by the Town.

Budget: Lauren Jennings spoke to the Board about adding \$10,000 to the MAC budget to pay for additional consulting on resiliency from the Musson Group. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to add \$3,000 for one more meeting and to consider whether more is needed after that. There was concern about whether the interest exists for more community meetings on resiliency, with some suggesting that a lack of activity in winter isn't uncommon and may not be a fair test of interest in the community.

Kirk asked the Select Board to consider adding \$7,500 to the Planning Board budget for consulting related to a subdivision ordinance and other matters they may be working on. This was agreed to by the Select Board.

Land Use Ordinance: Kirk briefed the Board on developments in regard to the Land Use Ordinance update. These included clarification on timber harvesting, ADU square footage, and building setbacks. A public meeting with the Planning Board is being considered for April 22, 2026.

State Forest Ranger: Larry Smith reported on a meeting that he and MCHT's Trevor Herrick had with the State Fire Ranger regarding the vacant fire warden position and planning a fire response for the island. A question was raised by Paul Saxby on obtaining a permit to burn his field. He was referred to the State Forest Service. Mutual aid with other communities was discussed, with Swan's Island being a likely partner. Although it is understood that Frenchboro's ability to reciprocate is limited, it was agreed that we will need to do what we can. Larry explained what he had learned about the town's financial obligation if a fire needs to be fought by the State Forest Service. The amount would be calculated based on a percentage of the town's total property valuation, as calculated by the State Revenue Service. The amount that Frenchboro would be liable for is believed to be around \$40,000. There was discussion about whether to appropriate funds as a reserve or deal with it by special town meeting if the need arises. The Board discussed the vacant Fire Warden position. Responsibilities for the position are limited, but the town is required to have one appointed by the State Forest Service. Joe Lunt agreed to take the position and the Board asked the Town Administrator to inform the State of this.

Head of the Harbor: Jaime Wallace from Wright-Pierce has agreed to meet with the Board at their 4/20/26 meeting. He will discuss shoreline repairs and the culvert replacement.

Dredging Project: The Army Corps of Engineers will be onsite this week to take sediment samples for analysis. The timeline for the dredge looks like it will occur in 2027-28. There was discussion on whose responsibility it is for temporarily relocating moorings when work is conducted. Consensus was that it probably falls on the mooring owners. There will be time to coordinate this and since the dredging will be done in winter, it should limit the number of affected moorings.

Town Property Sale: The Board conformed that the revised valuations of the properties that Steve Shelton provided are the ones that should be used when offering the lots to island residents. If there are no takers, the town will list the properties to the open market.

Other Business: Tim Wiggins asked the Board if there is a leash law for the Town of Frenchboro and it was confirmed that the State of Maine has a leash law and that it applies in Frenchboro, as it does in all Maine towns and cities.

Executive Session: The Board decided to go into executive session to discuss Town salaries and to discuss the acquisition of real estate. Motion to go into executive session by Larry Smith and seconded by Joe Lunt. Approved 4-0.

Following discussion of those two items, Jackie Mitchell moved to return to open session. Seconded by Myron Lenfestey. Approved 4-0.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Jackie Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Myron Lenfestey and approved 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.