

**ROCKPORT SELECT BOARD  
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017  
7:00 P.M.  
ROCKPORT OPERA HOUSE**

Present: Chair, William Chapman, Vice-Chair Kenneth McKinley, Geoffrey Parker and Owen Casas. Also present: Richard C. Bates, Town Manager and Ben Blackmon, Library Director and members of the public

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – William Chapman, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Application for a new Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License for Walkers Restaurant (1075 Commercial LLC) (Kenneth Depasquale and Joseph Cloutier) at 1075 Commercial Street, Rockport, Maine

Bill opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

ANYONE IN FAVOR – NONE  
ANYONE IN OPPOSITION – NONE  
ANYONE NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST – NONE

Bill closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Vote to grant a new Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License for Walkers Restaurant (1075 Commercial LLC) (Kenneth Depasquale and Joseph Cloutier) at 1075 Commercial Street, Rockport

Owen – when will you open?

Richard Eaton – Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Owen – what is your wow factor?

Richard – Clara Lane was a former town clerk for Rockport. Her father was Mr. Walker who was on the Select Board for twenty-six plus years. Walker Park was named after him. We will have a lot of memorabilia from Rockport's history on display. We will have good old fashioned home style foods. I will be doing the cooking.

**Kenneth McKinley moved to grant a new Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License for Walkers Restaurant (1075 Commercial LLC) (Kenneth Depasquale and Joseph Cloutier)**

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**at 1075 Commercial Street, Rockport. Geoffrey Parker seconded the motion. VOTE: 4 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

- b. Announcement of the Solar Celebration, Thursday, May 4, 2017, 4-6 p.m., Rockport Town Office

Bill – this morning there was a film crew from VStv at the town office interviewing Rick and Jamie.

Ken – the Revision folks will be present at the town office for the open house to explain how solar works.

Owen– will there be graphics and pictures?

Rick – there will be a monitor on the back wall with graphics being shown.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is invited on topic related to the items under discussion this evening.

V. LIBRARY DISCUSSION – None this evening

- a. Consideration of how to proceed with a survey:
- Contracting with a survey professional
  - Defining the questions that need to be answered

Bill – we have decided that we want to do a survey. We found some money in Rick’s side of the budget, so we can proceed with the survey now. Megan said that we also have \$10,000 in the library budget that we can use. What do we want out of the survey? Do we want to bring in a professional to get out what we need to hear? Do we really need to know why people voted no?

Geoff – we don’t necessarily need to go to past votes. We need to know how they feel now. “Where are you now on this, this and that?”

Ken – my first suggestion is to wait until November for a vote. We should not rush the process. It will be helpful to know if they voted and why they voted the way they did. We need to know the temperature. Are they willing to change their view on the site? As a Board, we decided on 1 Limerock Street. We need to know what size and cost the residents want to see. We should ask what you are willing to move on. Where can we compromise?

Owen – we should at least reference the previous vote. We need to know where we need to go. We did have an offer from a citizen, Emily Lusher, to do the survey for us. Should we reassess using her skills?

Bill – if you want acceptance from the residents you need to go at least 50 miles away to find someone. We need to show the appearance of impartiality.

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Ken – she has expressed her preference on what she feels the library should be, so it would be better to have someone who would not be considered biased.

Bill – Rick, did you find someone from away. Earlier we asked you to check into it for us?

Rick – I do have one name that was given to me by Emily and John Viehman. We can send out a RFP request and get some proposals back for you to look at. We would then get an analysis for what happened. We can ask for what the thoughts of how people feel today about a new library. This will take a month to complete. Bruce, the consultant, would need time with the Select Board on how to develop the questions. If he does his analytics, we could get 60% of the votes. The cheapest way to do the survey is to have it online. He recommends a multi prong approach. It will give you data, but not a winner or loser.

Ken – putting together a RFP would be a good exercise for us and would be helpful.

Geoff – I don't mind us doing a RFP, but in a speeded-up way.

My opinion is that a sizable group would wreak havoc if they think that someone responds several times.

Rick – let's be clear we are not talking about a vote.

Geoff – they could call in and get a number to help us know if they take the survey more than once. There are several questions on how it will all work.

Ken – we need to rely on the professionals. The Board had a discussion regarding the fact that a vote in June would be too soon

Rick – let me do the RFP. There are multiple options - mail and online for the survey.

Bill – we should direct Rick to constructed an RFP and get it out as soon as possible.

Geoff – Rick can set up a preamble.

Rick – I feel that we can get the information to go forward with a positive vote.

Ken – the preamble could be that we believe that a majority of the residents do want to have a new library. What do we want to know and how do we do that? “The goal is to determine what the residents of Rockport want in a library.”

Owen – there are three main areas from the previous votes: where are you at today, are you entrenched and are you willing to be flexible?

Bill – Rick can put together a RFP without assistance. We will take a brief look at it before he sends it out. How will we process the results?

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Owen –do we want to inform them that we will set a dollar number not to exceed a certain number?

The Board agreed that they should do that.

Owen – we should note that people watching that do not want to spend money for a new library are probably upset that we are spending money for a survey.

Geoff – should we consider when to hire someone?

Bill – once the survey is done, how do we want to proceed?

Geoff – whatever we do, it needs to be televised and we need to do it as a body.

Owen – in the library budget engineering study line we have \$10,000 left that Meagan says we can use and put back when it is voted on in June. We are just using the funds earlier. Ben how do you feel about this?

Ben – it is all interesting. A random survey and where the money comes from is your choice. My concern is the library budget.

Rick – we can possibly find the money in my budget first.

Owen –we can be more refined with the vendor on what we would like to find out from the survey.

Geoff – we should all be taking notes to bring to the vendor, potential interviewees. What information are we looking for?

- b. Consideration of how to proceed with mediation:
  - When and how should the mediation proceed
  - What ground work should be performed before the mediation should commence

Geoff – when we develop questions, we should have the mediator involved. This is an opportunity for a skilled person to be in the middle of us lions. We need a common goal. What is the message? What are our concerns? “Get a library that has a tremendous value.” We need a quick lesson on what a mediator can do. Will we do a RFP for a mediator?

Ken – it is a good idea, but we won’t have any knowledge on what we will need to know.

Rick – there are two ways: working with a limited set of circumstances or a wide-open scope.

Ken – we need to know what issues people are willing to move on.

Geoff – when discussing this with a successful vendor, we should invite knowledgeable people like Paul Charbonneau to attend the meeting.

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Rick – we do have local experts like Paul and Erick. We don't need to reinvent the wheel.

Ken – we need to know, is it the cost or is it the square footage.

Owen – we don't know what the sticking points will be.

Geoff – people will be more kind and gently involved in the process.

Rick – it is better for them to not have a lot of the specifics. The survey should have the facts on the ground.

There was discussion amongst the Board members that they are not facilitators.

Bill – we should hold off at getting a mediator. What message will it send the residents if we use the same firm for the survey and then as the mediator?

Geoff – if dealing with professionals and they both come from the same firm, I don't think that it should be an issue.

Bill – talked about dealing with emotions.

Ken – we are dealing with professionals. I am not averse to using the same firm for both the survey and as a mediator.

Owen – we need to make a decision on whether or not to use one or two firms.

Ken – we don't know what skills we need from a mediator.

Rick – the way to go is to leave the process for a polling scientist behind and decide how to approach the mediation process. I think that this is a complex process.

Bill – where do we want to go from here? Is there anything that we want to do?

Ken – Rick will get out the RFP.

Bill – what should the deadline be for getting this accomplished?

Rick – let me talk to John and Emily.

Geoff – I would think that it should be in two to three weeks.

Ken – could we send out the RFP by the end of the week?

Bill – we could have the survey complete by the end of May.

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In May, we also have two CIP meetings. We will have a Select Board meeting on May the 8<sup>th</sup> and another one on May the 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be an executive session on May 15th and we will have a wastewater workshop as well.

Bill – when do we want the responses back?

Rick – we need to wait and see when it is possible.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**Geoffrey Parker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Owen Casas seconded the motion. VOTE: 4 FOR – 0 OPPOSED**

Respectfully submitted,

LINDA M. GREENLAW  
TOWN CLERK as RECORDING SECRETARY