

Aerospace Committee Meeting MINUTES

Thursday, March 17th 2022

5:30 P.M. - Jonesport Town Office

Members: Rock Alley, Holli Finkle, Al Grignon, Tonia Merchant, Bill Nunan, Carrie Peabody, Irene Rogers

(Logan Alley on vacation)

Agenda items:

- The minutes of March 3rd, 2022 were approved as written.
- Meetings will continue weekly and will be held every Thursday through May 29th or until we no longer need to meet.
- The team discussed the March 14th annual town meeting vote and its impact on the ordinance process. Article 34, put to vote at the annual town meeting via a registered voter petition, resulted in 98 NOs and 25 YESs. The people of Jonesport have spoken and the direction of the committee is clear.

The Article on the Town Warrant read as follows:

“To see if the Town is in favor of an Aerospace Facility being allowed to launch commercial rockets in the Town of Jonesport. (FYI-The Aerospace Committee will use this information to develop an Ordinance. This is NOT a binding vote)”.

- The committee will be utilizing the survey vote results, Survey and Webmail feedback/comments and the outcome of the town vote as the premise for the Aerospace ordinance. There is no question that an Aerospace Facility should not be allowed to launch commercial rockets in the Town of Jonesport. The committee will include a provision regarding no rockets within a certain perimeter of the town. Tonia will locate a current definition of the Town of Jonesport boundaries for the committee to go by.
- The team discussed amateur rocket guidelines as they may relate to fireworks/drone permitting and land use standards. Discussion of a potential prohibitory ordinance could be considered given the overwhelming feedback to not have rockets at all within 10-20 miles of Jonesport.
- The team thought it prudent to seek town legal review of the ordinance once drafted with a note of explanation for intent prior to having a Planning Board review. Once the Planning Board review is conducted and the ordinance is in order, it will be finalized and presented to the

Selectboard for review. The team wants to ensure that nothing is missed and that no loopholes exist.

- Al/ Irene presented some examples of ordinances for the committee to consider as a framework. There were a couple of examples that would be easy to modify and utilize as a general framework for the Aerospace Ordinance. Remember, this is the first Aerospace ordinance to be generated in the state of Maine, let alone anywhere in the country. An ordinance framework will need to be created from scratch. Al and Irene have signed on to draft up something and bring a rendition to use.
- Al reviewed the Aerospace Project Plan updates that were completed over the past two weeks. Discussed priorities, tasks and timelines for moving forward with the ordinance process. The team is on schedule. Tonia discussed informed the committee of the upcoming school board meeting in April and suggested the committee put the draft ordinance out for review/approval via the school agenda. The team agreed that would work well. Al will incorporate all updates/changes to the project plan and send out to the committee this week.

Committee Round Table (open discussion / odds and ends):

- LD1923 Maine Space Corp: Rocky updated the team on the status of the bill in the legislature. The bill is currently under revision. The team discussed what the institution of the bill could mean but understands that the ordinance written for Jonesport would not allow for any incorporation of a spaceport for commercial launches or any manufacturing facilities.
- Rock shared his concerns over the future of the lobster industry and the impact of federal regulations upon the fishermen. The union has funding to fight NOAA but not all that it needs. The campaign and fight for the industry is on. Rock believes that LePage will support the industry and make the necessary changes to turn things around if elected in November. Currently, the industry continues to be targeted and there are actions underway by certain entities looking to remove fishermen from the waters in order to protect the right whale.
- bluShift has announced their decision to abandon their plans for Jonesport and move their launch operations to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This decision is based upon fast approaching deadlines to launch their next rocket by the fall of 2022 in order to secure funding from NASA. bluShift is surely to return to Maine to

pursue a new launch site, which could affect towns south of Jonesport. Carrie has been approached by several towns that are interested in our aerospace survey/ordinance process. Towns east of Jonesport are awaiting completion of the aerospace ordinance so they too may protect themselves from rocket launches occurring in their town.

- Carrie discussed her interview with the Bangor Daily News/John Trott, and CH 6/7 re: survey process, the Annual Town Vote, and ordinance plan forward. On Friday March 18th, Carrie participates in a MPBN call re: Aerospace Developments. The call will consist of two panelists: Sasha Deri, CEO of bluShift Aerospace, Terry Shehata, director, NASA Maine Space Grant Consortium & NASA EPSCoR Program.
VIP Callers: Senator Mattie Daughtry, proponent of Maine Space Corporation and Hillary Lister of Maine Matters in opposition to Maine Space Corporation.
- Carrie reconfirmed the Beals Moratorium vote on March 21. Beals will be holding a town meeting vote for 180 day moratorium to draft an aerospace ordinance. Jonesport is setting a precedent for other towns that may/may not want rockets in their area and Beals is looking to adopt our ordinance process to protect themselves from future rocket activity.
- The committee received a handwritten letter from Lynn Alley that read:
“10% of Jonesport’s registered voters voted against rockets” and “I think we can agree that anti-rocketeers campaigned long and hard to get every person in town who opposes rockets to attend [the town] meeting.”

The committee disagreed with the statement made in the letter. The official registered voter survey, conducted over a period of two weeks, using multiple methods to notify the community of the effort, produced an 80% result against rockets with 17% conditional and 3% for. The town vote was overwhelming with a vote of 98 Not in support vs. 25 in support. The note has absolutely no bearing. The data clearly supports an overwhelming number of registered voters in the community do NOT support rocket launches in Jonesport.

The next AC meeting will be held on **March 24th at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Office**. Agenda to follow shortly. If anyone has any additional agenda items, please email me and we will cover it at roundtable.

Future meetings reserved for Thursday evenings at 5:30 at the Town Office:

March 31
April 7, 14, 21, 28
May 5, 12, 19, 26