

SORRENTO NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

79 Pomola Avenue, Sorrento, ME 04677 ☎ (207) 422-6889 ☎ townoffice@sorrentomaine.org

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read." – Groucho Marx

Sorrento Town Office

Monday – Wednesday 8 am – 3 pm
Thurs: 10 am – 3 pm
Friday: 8 am - Noon

**Town Office Administrator/Town Clerk/Tax Collector/
Treasurer/Registrar of Voters/Harbor Secretary/
Maine BMV Agent & Notary:**

Kathi Moore kathi.moore@sorrentomaine.org

Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer:

Joanne Holmes

Select Board:

Rob Wilpan 207-422-9115 term expires 2024
rob.wilpan@sorrentomaine.org

Diana Gazis 207-422-3697 term expires 2025
diana.gazis@sorrentomaine.org

Vacant term expires 2023

Code Enforcement Officer & Plumbing Inspector:

Mike Gurtler 207-460-5544
ceo-lpi@sorrentomaine.org

Fire Chief/Road Commissioner/Public Safety Officer:

Joey Clark 207-812-2208 terms expire 2023
tonkajoe801@yahoo.com

Harbormaster:

Lou Sutherland Jr 207-266-5706
harbormaster@sorrentomaine.org

Animal Control:

Daniel McKay 207-460-0623
daniel.mckay@hancockcountymaine.gov

E-911 Addressing Officer:

Marc Perry 207-4609949
downeastassessing@gmail.com

RSU 24 School Board Member:

Janet Wilpan 207-422-9115 term expires 2023

Planning Board:

planningboard@sorrentomaine.org

**Notary Public Services
are available at the
Town Office**

**2022 Property Tax Bills were due by
January 17, 2023 with interest at 4% per annum
charged after that date. 30 Day Lien Notices will
be mailed after August 16, 2023.**

Credit and debit cards are now accepted at the Town
Office!



**The Sorrento Community Building and
Village Green is available to rent for your next
event. Call the Town Office at 422-6889 for
more information.**

SORRENTO COMMUNITY BUILDING

is reserved for:

*August 9, 16, 20
September 6, 20, 30
October 4, 18
November 1, 7, 15
December 6, 20*

Village Green is reserved for:

*August 2, 3
October 13*

NOTICE

BUDGET COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETINGS

7:00 pm at the Sorrento Town Office

Tuesday August 8, 2023

Tuesday August 15, 2023



Dog Licenses

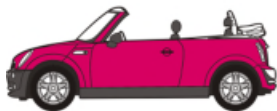
Starting February 1 a fine of \$25 will be due along with the registration fee on any unregistered dog. If you no longer own a dog that was registered last year, please call the Town Office to update our records.

****Dogs must be licensed by January 1 of each year or when they reach 6 months of age.**

\$6 for neutered/spayed... \$11 for unaltered

***When licensing your dog, you must bring with you your dog's **rabies certificate showing the tag number and date of expiration** and your **certificate of proof of spay or neuter**, unless these are already on file at the Town Office.

****Any dog living in the Town of Sorrento must have a Sorrento license/tag.**



When transferring your auto registration from your vehicle to a new/newer vehicle, you MUST bring in the registration of the vehicle you are transferring from.

Ellsworth branch BMV hours are
8-4:30 Monday through Friday
Tel: (207) 667-9363 8:30-4:30
Fax: (207) 667-0048

Online Boat Registration Renewal:

<https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/boat/>

Fishing and Hunting licenses:

<https://moses.inform.org/cgi-bin/online/moses v3/index>

EXPIRATION DATES

VEHICLES: Expire a year from when they are registered (unless you are transferring)

TRAILERS: Can be registered for 1 or 2 years, same month, except over 2000 lb.

Trailers expire in Feb. (1 or 2 years)

BOATS: Expire Dec. 31st

ATVs: Expire June 30th

SNOWMOBILES: Expire June 30th

MOTORCYCLES: Expire March 31 of every year, except antique.

SORRENTO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Residents of Sorrento are eligible for scholarship funds to pursue additional learning after high school. These scholarships can be used for a wide variety of education – college, technical school or many other accredited programs. Students receive \$1500 per semester plus a bonus for achieving top grades.

Please consider a gift to this fund and become a part of the community encouraging the next generation of high school graduates to pursue additional education after high school.

Please make checks payable to: Sorrento Scholarship Fund

and mail or drop off checks to:

**Gina Bennett, PO Box 93,
Sorrento, ME 04677**

Sorrento residents, who are currently or will be starting post high school education in the future, please contact Wendy Worrell at 402-689-8682



Meeting

SORRENTO SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

are held the first and third Wednesday of each month

7:00 p.m.

In person at the Sorrento Community Building
and via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=
=d010](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSGM_rZkNwUT09)

[ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSG M rZkNwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86535623920?pwd=ajZHVE9sbStmQXpZSGM_rZkNwUT09)

Meeting ID: 865 3562 3920

Passcode: 307652



Select Board Meeting Minutes

5/17/2023

Attending in person at the Sorrento Community Building were Selectmen Rob Wilpan, Select- woman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Fire Chief Joey Clark, Tom Bailey, Gina Bennett, Greg & Stephanie Bullock, Pam Calcia, Susan Clancy-Dougherty & Dan Dougherty, Darla Crocker, Jock Crothers, Bob Gilman, Ann Hoffner, Bill & Joanne Holmes, Jon Mickel, Elizabeth Moriarty, Bill & Lensa Neleski, Crosby & Kathleen Noyes, Daphne & Ted Preuss, Clay & Jane Savage, Dale Strohmaier and Wendy Worrell, plus attendees via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Rob Wilpan.

DISBURSEMENT WARRANT: Kathi presented Disbursement Warrant #22 to the Select Board to be signed. Rob made a motion to accept the warrant, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis yes, Wilpan yes, motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Kathi read a statement regarding her objection to the amendments of the 4/19/2023 meeting minutes. Rob amended the wording of the section regarding her "performance review" to verbatim wording. Her objection was that if one section is verbatim then the entire minutes should be verbatim. Rob said this was done because she waived the executive session so this was done to document her review. Diana made a motion to approve the 4/19/2023 minutes as amended, seconded by Rob. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed. Kathi also objected to the amendments to the 5/3/2023 meeting minutes because Rob sent them via email at 5:57 pm the night of the meeting knowing that no one would see the amendments until the next day. If the minutes are not going to be read during the SB meeting then any amendments should be emailed

at least two days prior to the meeting for review. Rob made a motion to approve the 5/3/2023 minutes as amended, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed.

TOWN OFFICE LAWN DAMAGE: The front and back lawn suffered severe grub damage which Mike Miller says is beyond his scope of repair, he recommended Green Thumb. Rob said he would call Mike to discuss.

***HAZARD MITIGATION:** SAFETYWORKS inspection: Rob has contacted Scott Simpson to install fall protection railings at the top of the T.O. attic stairs. An electrician needs to place a cage around the light in the T.O. utility room and repair lights and outlets in the other buildings. Rob will complete the paperwork for SafetyWorks.

REPORT FROM DEPARTMENTS:

Sewer bill corrections: Darla and Kathi are working on this.

Fire Department efforts after 5/1 storm and Winter Harbor forest fire: Joey reported having a challenge finding contractors to pick up debris. There were two fires in the same spot, he has not heard of the cause yet.

Harbor railing completed: Railings are completed, still looking for an electrician to hook up the lights.

APPOINTMENT TO HANCOCK COUNTY PLANNING

COMMISSION BOARD: Rob made a motion to appoint Newbold (Terry) Noyes as Sorrento's representative for the HCPC Board, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed. Rob announced they are still looking for a second representative.

SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL BOS VACANCY:

Nomination papers will be available for 10 days beginning tomorrow May 18; papers must be returned to the Clerk by June 30; absentee ballots will be available for 30 days; the election will be held on Friday June 30. Rob made a motion to accept the above, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed. The Board signed to Notice of Shortened Nomination Process form. Kathi is to call the Ellsworth American to notify them of this election.

RECALL ORDINANCE: Diana received a call from Elizabeth Moriarty regarding the proposed ordinance. Diana will meet with Elizabeth, Clay and Jane Savage to come up with an agreeable Recall Ordinance to submit at a later meeting for approval.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: The Select Board received 6 applicants and is nominating the following residents as Budget Committee members: Harold Page, Ann Weimer, Rick Knowlton, Wendy Worrell, Darla Crocker and Stephanie Bullock as the alternate. Rob made a motion to approve all six members, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed.

Even though Rob does not have a copy to review and sign, he suggests using the Budget Committee By-Laws that were handed out for review during the May 3, 2023 SB meeting, with one change, the Budget Committee should start meeting prior to the 4th quarter of the fiscal year, our fiscal year ends June 30, so the first meeting should take place no later than April. Rob made a motion to accept the Budget Committee By-Laws as amended, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed.

RSU 24 BUDGET VOTE: Rob stated that our school budget has gone up again; one of the reasons for it is the EPS formula: 60% of the student number and 40% of the town's valuation. Both of these factors have increased. Typically the Select Board does not have an opinion on the budget vote, but it was made known to him that Kathi has been expressing an opinion on the RSU budget and the clerk's opinion should not be expressed during business hours in the town office. Rob made a motion that she follow the opinion of the Select Board and not express her opinion. Diana said she was confused about the motion. Clay Savage asked Rob if he just heard him tell her should could not talk. Rob said Kathi is not a voter in Sorrento, she lives in Gouldsboro, her office is supposed to represent the Select Board's opinion. Kathi said she has no job description stating this, she has been asking for one for 2 ½ years. Rob said he has been looking for one with these little things but hasn't found it. They are not penalizing her for voicing her opinion but not to do so if it doesn't agree with the Select Board; this is the legal opinion of Town Attorney Dan Pileggi. She cannot express her personal opinion if it differs from the SB from this day going forward. Ann Blood asked if she is supposed to contact the SB for their opinion on everything before she opens her mouth and discusses it with anyone; how will she know what your opinion is and whether she is disagreeing with your opinion. Rob said it came up and he was informed of a situation where people felt uncomfortable with the town clerk trying to sway the election. Diana suggests we table this discussion and ask MMA for their opinion. Ann Blood said she suggests that we have free speech, we live in the United States and should be able to find out information, and we shouldn't have to have the town officials telling us what we should and shouldn't believe. Dan Dougherty asked Rob for a copy of the email from Dan Pileggi. It was added that the district budget meeting /vote will be on May 24 at 6:30 pm at Mountain View School.

Diana said it would be helpful to have some sort of financial report available once a month, something short and easy to follow that could be posted in the

town office, she was hoping Darla could do it. Kathi said she is the Town Treasurer and Diana should be making the request to her. Jon Mickel asked if the monthly update was something that was collaborated on beforehand. Diana said no. Jon asked isn't that what the Disbursement Warrant is? He requested that when the Disbursements are gone over by the SB, they are not just looked at but reviewed audibly as it would be a good opportunity for some transparency and for people in town to get a feel for the budget. Rob said it could be posted, we will work on that. Jon asked if there will be a routine update from the Finance Committee or will it be just be as the accounts are audited and reconciled; shouldn't that be an agenda item at each SB meeting for an update. Darla said when she has updates she will provide them, it may not be each week depending on what she is working on.

Kathi read the following statement of her allegations: I am asking for the town to pay for or reimburse me for attorney fees for hiring an objective employment attorney. The Wilma Dyer letter has cost the town in legal fees plus the cost of police protection (during the 4/19/2023 SB meeting) \$1340. At a minimum I would expect to receive the same amount for my legal fees. I should have the support of the Select Board, but do not. As the result of the way the Wilma Dyer letter was mishandled, the retaliation and bullying I received for standing up for myself, the failed attempts to publicly humiliate me and the way my physical and mental health have been affected, on 4/20/2023 I sought out legal counsel from Gregg Frame of Taylor, McCormack & Frame. Had I not opened the envelope from attorney Pileggi in my capacity as Town Treasurer, which I believed to contain an invoice for legal fees, I would have never known that I, Jon Mickel and his wife Amanda were being defamed and our reputations were all on the line. Many people don't know that Jon resigned from the Select Board because of the accusations in the Wilma Dyer letter. I hope he will choose to run for another office because Sorrento needs accountability in the community. There needs to be an active investigation into who is responsible for writing the Wilma Dyer letter. Rob thanked her and made a motion to adjourn. Kathi asked what about her request for legal fees. Rob said Dan Pileggi addressed that earlier. Kathi said not to me. Rob said I'll get an answer from him. Jon asked Rob, your response to that was really, ok let's adjourn the meeting. Rob said as far as that letter goes, no one knows anything. Jon asked you're going to allow that sort of misconduct and behavior from members of our community. Rob said the letter was not credible, the

person does not exist. He spoke with the victim mentioned in the letter and he confirmed the allegations are false. Jon said there are 4 victims and one of which asked for your support. Rob said there is no way to trace who wrote the letter. Jon said there is handwriting. A libelous, defamatory, slanderous letter was sent fraudulently to the town attorney so he suggests handing the letter over to the police. Rob said sure, he will. The issue of the Fire Department gas charges was discussed and how the police investigation did not happen. Diana moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Rob. Greg Bullock asked questions about the gas charges. Rob said it is in the State Attorney General's hands and he will hand the Wilma Dyer letter over to law officials. At 8:12 pm Rob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Diana. Respectfully submitted on 7/03/2023 by Kathi Moore, Town Clerk

Emergency Select Board Meeting Minutes 06/01/2023

The meeting was available by ZOOM and was attended by 20 people in person in addition to Diana and Rob. Rob called the meeting at 7:00 pm. Rob announced that the main purpose of calling this emergency Select board meeting was because he noticed that Maggi's deputy clerk, tax collector and treasurer appointment papers expired the end of last year and she is working in the absence of Kathi. The appointment of Joanne Main Holmes as interim Clerk was originally proposed to make sure that the RSU 24 Budget Referendum occurs if Kathi doesn't return for the election. Unfortunately, Rob did not confirm with Joanne that she wanted to take on this commitment, so the second agenda item is canceled, and just trusting that Kathi will be back for the election. Rob then motioned to appoint Maggi McCaw Deputy Tax Collector, Deputy Tax Collector and Deputy Town Clerk. Motion seconded by Diana. All in favor? Gazis aye, Wilpan aye. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm. Submitted by Rob Wilpan.

Select Board Meeting Minutes 6/14/2023

Attending in person at the Sorrento Community Building were Selectmen Rob Wilpan, Select-woman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Fire Chief Joey Clark, Tom Bailey, Connie Dedam, Dan & Patrick Dougherty, Darla Crocker, Jock Crothers, Jeff Harden, Ann Hoffner, Bill & Joanne Holmes, Jon Mickel, Bill, Lense, Macy & Kyle Neleski, Terry Noyes, Colleen, Mark & Steve Ober, Clay Savage, Lynn Stone, Dale

Strohmaier and Hilly Welch Crary, plus attendees via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Rob Wilpan.

DISBURSEMENT WARRANT: Diana made a motion to approve Warrant #22- the 6/14/2022 Disbursement Warrant, seconded by Rob. Vote: Gazis yes, Wilpan yes, motion passed and the warrant was signed by the Select Board.

MINUTES: Diana made a motion to approve the 6/01/2023 Emergency Select Board meeting minutes, seconded by Rob. Vote: Gazis yes, Wilpan yes, motion passed.

MURAL PROJECT: Connie Dedam made a presentation for a new mural commemorating Sorrento's 125th birthday. The artist is Chris Sarro, who painted the 3 murals on the side of Tideway Market. Currently there is \$5040.65 in the mural fund and Chris has agreed to do one panel for \$5000. The location remains the same, on the side of the town office building. Rob made a motion to move forward with the proposal, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, Motion passed. Connie provided the Select Board with a proposal and sales agreement for their signatures. She would like to have the project completed this summer with a pot luck supper to celebrate the completion.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT: Sorrento resident Macy Neleski made a presentation for her Eagle Scout project coming up in August. She is asking for permission to erect a 4'x8'x8' shed on town property. Her preferred location is in the corner of the CB parking lot, as it has to be visible from the road. It will be a year-round library/food pantry (canned and non-perishable goods). Rob made a motion to approve the plan, placed as described, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed. She will be the youngest female Eagle Scout and she is also looking for any donations (a shed or materials for the shed build).

BLUE GRASS BAND CONCERT: Rob said the town is co-sponsoring with the Church of the Redeemer, a blue grass band concert on the village green on July 27. Rob made a motion to approve sponsoring, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed.

PART-TIME DEPUTY CLERK POSITION: Rob announced that they are creating a new position, a part-time deputy clerk/tax collector/treasurer. He is hoping that this person will be a Sorrento resident, there is no budget for it yet but the fiscal year starts July 1 so we can adjust the budget accordingly. The position would be for 8 hours per week but available up to 20 hours per week, to be fully trained by Kathi, to be advertised in the June newsletter, the candidates will be interviewed separately by Kathi, Diana and Rob, the

Board and Kathi will meet in executive session on July 5 to deliberate and hopefully approve a candidate. Rob made a motion to approve the terms as written above, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed.

SPECIAL SELECTPERSONS ELECTION: Rob said the special selectperson's election has been cancelled because the notice was not posted and the office was not open for nomination papers to be available.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE: Rob made a motion that the annual town meeting/election be set for Saturday September 30, 2023 with the hours set the same as last year (8 am to 12 noon=election and 3 pm=meeting portion) with nomination papers being available Thursday June 15, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT FACILITATED BY LYNN STONE:

Lynn was asked by the Select Board to facilitate a community feedback/experiment session. She asked the audience to make their statement as a proposal to the town instead of making a comment. Proposals include: making Fuller Road a "No Thru Traffic" road; do something about speeding; putting the speed trailer to use again; talking to contractors to slow their trucks down; place homemade signs on your own property saying "slow down"; parking be developed at Doane's Point Beach.

At 8:02 pm Rob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed. Respectfully submitted on 7/03/2023 by Kathi Moore, Town Clerk



**Select Board Meeting Minutes
6/21/2023**

Attending in person at the Sorrento Community Building were Selectmen Rob Wilpan, Selectwoman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Fire Chief Joey Clark, Tom Bailey, Susan Clancy-Dougherty & Dan Dougherty, Darla Crocker, Jock Crothers, Giff Ewing, Wendy Gamble, Jeff Harden, Bill & Joanne Holmes, Tony Kuehn, Jon Mickel, Elizabeth Moriarty, Bill, Lensa & Macy Neleski, Crosby & Kathleen Noyes, Terry Noyes, Daphne & Ted Preuss, Clay & Jane Savage, Lynn Stone, Dale Strohmaier, Hilly Welch Crary, plus attendees via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Rob Wilpan.

DISBURSEMENT WARRANT: Rob made a motion to accept Disbursement Warrant #24, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis yes, Wilpan yes, motion passed.

ARPA FUNDS: Rob made a motion to pay the final disbursement (\$7967.25) of the 2021 American Rescue

Plan Act funds to Long Pond Water District, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed.

TOWN FACEBOOK PAGE: Rob requested that Kathi provide him and Diana with the login information for the Town of Sorrento's Facebook page.

RECALL ORDINANCE: Diana has been meeting with Clay and Jane Savage and Elizabeth Moriarty to come up with an acceptable version of the proposed Sorrento Recall ordinance. They have another meeting tomorrow.

TOWN WEBSITE: Rob made a motion to hire Bonneville Consulting from Belfast to help get the town website up and running, using what Rob had already created, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed. The cost is \$100 per hour but that is for getting the template set up and getting it working properly.

TOWN NEWSLETTER: Rob asked Kathi for the status of getting out newsletter mailed out ASAP. She said it is on her to do list but not a priority. He said he to email him everything and he will take care of it.

DOANE'S POINT BEACH PARKING: Rob said this should be tabled for a while due to the expense of expanding parking; there are paving projects in town that need to take priority.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE: Hilly reported that the committee has been working on a public engagement survey which will go out in the mail the first week in July.

PUBLIC COMMENT FACILITATED BY LYNN STONE: Lynn was asked back by the Select Board to facilitate a community feedback/experiment session. Several residents in attendance were questioning the need for the session. Lynn asked the audience to make their statement as a proposal to the town instead of making a comment. Proposals include: maintain some level of civil discord during the SB meetings; the select board start running the meetings on "Robert's Rules of Order"; repair the Traffic Logix radar sign; including a "Public Comment" session at the end of the select board meetings; the select board provide more transparency – report back on solutions to proposals; revisit the Comprehensive Plan and make sure we are accomplishing it; form a separate Capital Improvement Committee; all committees are conducted with a Zoom option and are held at the community building where there is more seating available; the town purchase a laptop to use for meetings; provide some sort of transparency – regular reports from all committees; take your proposals and email them to the select chair to be included on the next SB meeting agenda.

At 8:06 pm Rob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis yes, Wilpan yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted on 7/05/2023 by Kathi Moore,
Town Clerk



Select Board Meeting Minutes 7/05/2023

Attending in person at the Sorrento Community Building were Selectmen Rob Wilpan, Selectwoman Diana Gazis, Town Clerk Kathi Moore, Fire Chief Joey Clark, Deb Ashe-Gordon, Tom Bailey, Stephanie Bullock, Jock Crothers, Jeff Harden, Alta Harding, Bill & Joanne Holmes, Tony Kuehn, Barry Malmrose, Elizabeth Moriarty, Bill & Kyle Neleski, Crosby Noyes, Terry Noyes, Clay Savage, Al Scott, Lynn Stone, Dale Strohmaier, Josh Trundy, Hilly Welch Crary and Wendy Worrell plus attendees via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Rob Wilpan.

DISBURSEMENT WARRANT: Rob made a motion to approve Disbursement Warrant #1, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed. The warrant was signed by the Select Board.

MEETING MINUTES: Rob made a motion to approve the 6/14/2023 minutes as amended, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed. Rob made a motion to approve the 6/21/2023 meeting minutes as written, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed.

RECALL ORDINANCE: Diana reported she has been meeting with Elizabeth Moriarty and Clay and Jane Savage to put together an ordinance, they are meeting again on Friday to finalize things and hopefully they can present the draft at the next meeting on July 19.

PART-TIME DEPUTY CLERK POSITION: Rob announced that since the help wanted advertisement did not make it into the printed version of the June/July Newsletter the executive session to discuss applicants will be moved to the July 19 Select Board meeting.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE WITH TRIO: Rob reported that it is very important to move away from QuickBooks to Trio and there's a lot of work still needs to be done to get to that point. The new fiscal year started July 1 and every accounting of money going in and money spent must be entered in both QB and Trio. It is of the utmost importance to do it fast and do it right and he has been searching for a financial expert well versed in Trio. He has found Danielle Berube who is the Finance Director for the City of Old Town; she has offered to do this for us, and she can start in another week or so. She will be paid out of the funds left in the Trio Onboarding account. Kathi said one would have assumed that she would have been included in this decision. Diana said it was the Budget

Committee that wanted it and wanted it now. Kathi said she was in that Budget meeting and was the one who suggested it to the Budget Committee, that we should have someone well versed in Trio to help us because the balances cannot go into Trio until the balances are 100% accurate. Rob said no, they can go in 99% accurate, it's important to get something started more than to be exact. Kathi said I still say that I should have been included in the decision of who you hired. I am the Town Clerk, Treasurer, etc. and I should have some input with decisions that affect me and my office. Rob said duly noted. Budget Committee member Stephanie Bullock said it was discussed but that was pretty much the beginning and end of the discussion. Kathi asked the Select Board that in the future to please discuss it with her before any major decisions have been made that directly affects her and her office, she doesn't think that's an unreasonable request and she should be privy to the info before seeing it on an agenda.

YEAR-END PROCESS: Rob announced that reports are due in early August. Calling for all departmental reports, we need suggestions and contacts for annual report dedications or in memoriums, account balances, submissions for cover picture for the annual report. Email Rob with suggestions for dedications and photos.

PLOWING CONTRACT: Josh Trundy has offered a plowing quote for the next three years. The Select Board does not have authority to approve multi-year contracts, that's given to the voters. The quote is \$91,000 for the 2023-2024 plowing season (same as last season). Rob made a motion to approve Josh Trundy's plowing contract for the 2023-2024 plowing season, seconded by Diana. Vote: Gazis aye, Wilpan aye, motion passed. It will be in the annual warrant for the next 2 years; then a 3% increase to \$91,730 for the 2024-2025 winter season and \$96,542 for the 2025-2026 winter season. The voters will have a chance to approve that.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Al Scott, committee chair, spoke about what the Committee's purpose is and the roll out of the Public Engagement Survey. It was mailed out to all tax payers. There is a drop box in the front of the town office. Also there is an online version.

UPDATE ON BUDGET COMMITTEE: Stephanie Bullock reported the committee has been meeting every week with various departments. They are looking at previous expenditures and projected expenditures; it is a long process and they will present suggestions to select board.

UPDATE ON POLINATOR MEADOW: Hilly Crary reported the garden is coming along very well; they

have 12 volunteers and meet 2 hours every Wednesday morning. Ideas and donations are always welcome.

REPORT FROM ROAD COMMISSIONER: The grader is to be coming in next week. Cross pipes are to be patched up. He received another paving estimate for West Shore Road of \$388,820. He has received speeding complaints and got a quote from White Signs for a flashing speed sign of \$3225. He has a call in to the State for East Side Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Deb Ashe-Gordon asked the following be included in the Annual Report: include in the Road Commissioner Report a list maintenance projects completed as well as an upcoming maintenance plan. Fire Department – include a list of active fire fighters and how many calls they responded to for the year by category. Maine law requires the Auditor's report be included in the annual report. Rob said we are 3 years behind in audits so it will be an older audit report.

Jock Crothers asked about the possibility of changing the speed limit for West Shore Road. Joey said the speed is regulated by state highway Department.

Bill Neleski reported that his dad Paul Neleski, a long time former Sorrento Resident, passed away last Tuesday.

Clay Savage asked Rob if he has called MMA yet regarding how the Select Board stands on the structure of an ordinance. Rob said not yet. Clay said ordinances fall 1 of 2 ways; to protect the officials or the citizens. It is sometimes hard to find the middle of the road to please everyone. They are working hard to find the middle ground. A recall is a citizen's initiative and the citizens have the right to make some decisions in this. Regarding the Trio, Rob you are the first selectman and I think it would behoove you to go to your people first before you go outside.

Barry Malmrose stated that he has been a resident of Sorrento for 25 years, now seasonally, and he reads the newsletter every month and was appalled when reading it a month or so ago. It was unbelievable; it's almost like we're in the Biden administration, it seems like we should be more together as a town instead of being so far apart.

7:55 motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted, Kathi Moore, Town Clerk



PLANNING BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM

First Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Easy option for first time users:

Search: join.zoom.us with Chrome browser

Enter Meeting ID: **889 8753 5935**

Download, install & launch Zoom Client

Enter passcode: **470 621**

Minutes of the April meeting of the Sorrento Planning Board, held via Zoom on April 6th, 2023

Present: Tom Bailey, Trina Wellman, Beth Clark, Hilly Crary, Diana Gazis, Rob Wilpan, Mike Gurtler, Wendy Gamble, Tony Kuehn, (and perhaps others on zoom?) Former Chair Sasa Cook had to resign as he is no longer a Maine resident. We all appreciate his years of work and are sorry to see him leave. Unclear if we have formally accepted his resignation.

Meeting began around 7:05 with Tom talking about integrating with the Comp Plan regarding STR and affordable housing.

Mike reminded us we have to choose a new Chair first. Motion to nominate Tom as Chair, 2nded and passed. Since Tom had been secretary, and Hilly had said she would take that on if Tom became Chair, there was a Motion to nominate Hilly as secretary which was 2nded and passed.

Board had hoped to meet with neighboring towns regarding their thoughts on STR and needs to follow up.

Mike suggested that as our new Comprehensive Plan develops, we should look at our Land Use Ordinance (LUO) for possible changes:

Page 2 – right of appeal, cannot be Select Board if there is no Board of Appeals (BOA). Would have to appeal to court. BOA must have members that are not on any other board. BOA also considers variances.

That depends on if we want local control or not.

Life of a permit: ours says can renew 3 x. Mike thinks that is too much.

Other interesting facts: Only inspection in Sorrento is for plumbing. Building and Energy codes are State Law, but towns as small as Sorrento are not required to enforce them. There are no residential electrical inspections.

We don't have a certificate of occupancy (COO).

Our Shoreland Ordinance is reflective of State laws.

Back to LUO possible changes: Page 4 – different levels

of setback: 10 feet from neighbor, 40 feet from road.
Is this what we want?
Height of windows was determined by our fire fighting equipment at the time of ordinance!
Minimum lot size -
Discussion over use of RV's for extra housing and rentals. What does Town want to allow? What happens with water, elec, wastewater? More than 1 RV means a campground. That can also be tents, yurts, tree houses. What is a dwelling? Regarding campgrounds: what about the noise, traffic, erosion control? What is our vision for Sorrento?
Changes to LUO begin in PB, then go to BOS, then a public hearing.
Regarding STR, Wendy says there are easy things we could do. Like how many should be allowed in Town? And, no tents? Define what we want to allow, and where. Occasional residential use, versus a for-profit business. Clarify definitions.
Site Plan Review was mentioned. Include information for the Town.
Meeting adjourned. Next PB meeting May 4th. 7 pm.
This secretary hopes we may meet in person!
Respectfully submitted, Hilly Crary



Minutes of the May meeting of the Sorrento Planning Board, held via Zoom, on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

Present: PB members: Tom Bailey, Beth Clark, Bob Worrell, Trina Wellman, Hilly Crary, and our CEO Mike Gurtler. This secretary learned that although members of the public are often present at these meetings, their name does not have to be mentioned unless they make comments. Chair Tom called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Motion made and seconded and passed to approve minutes of April 2023.

Agenda:

1) Old Business – it did not surprise anyone to learn that this means the Short Term Rental issue, and again we spent a great deal of time discussing it.
Trying to summarize here: - Considering the minimal response we've had to voluntary survey and 2 public meetings, is it an important issue?
- We still need to followup with plan to invite someone from Gouldsboro PB to share STR thoughts...
- Tom has sent us a list of towns with STR ordinances, and info about the affordable housing act going into effect in July.
- Mike reminded us that Towns do have the authority to put a STR registration in place. Right now we do not know how many STRs there are in Sorrento. He said just have a simple registration process so we know the Scope of the STR activity. More than 1 of us asked him:

How to do that? He said the Bar Harbor ordinance (for example) that asks people to register their STR have a penalty for not registering. So we too could have an STR ordinance with mandatory registration and a penalty for not registering. Since we don't know if it's a problem or not, we need data! Either we stop and let it go, or go forward. We can inform all property owners with a postcard. We took some guesses as to how many there are in Town now. Maybe 25?
It is noted that the Comprehensive Plan is working on a public survey, which will include questions about STR. Also, at least 2 members of the CP want to make contact with every resident, and can ask for opinions about STR. So, maybe we the PB should wait until we have more Intel from the CPC survey.
Select board member Diana G suggested an article about STR in the Town newsletter. Someone from PB could write something. Bob said it was first about safety. He said an article in the newsletter should ask Why and What do we want? And ask for response. Beth pointed out that only a few people in town seem concerned about STR. If it were a problem, wouldn't we hear more about it? So: Is it important that we address STR or not? We seem to agree that for now we will let the CPC take it on, since there was minimal response when we put it out to the whole Town.
The CPC survey will help us with data, even though we all know it will take awhile...
Finally we moved on to Site Plan Review, (which I like to refer to as SPR (Not to be confused with STR!))
Mike explained: Site Plan Review is regarding the Impact of Commercial Development. This can be any business in Town. Right now we have nothing to require a SPR, unless the development is a subdivision, or in the Shoreland zone. A SPR covers all the things that may occur with a commercial project: How it might affect the neighbors: Is the road ok? Noise? Drinking water quality? Water run off? Sewage? Trash removal? Lights? Safety? These things are not in our Land Use Ordinance. A Site Plan Review Ordinance (which we do not currently have, but could) is to decrease the impact on the neighbors when someone wants to develop a commercial project. It does Not affect where such development might take place, because, except for the Shoreland, we do not have zoning in Town. Bob asked if we have to define all the elements of review for Site Plan? Answer is Yes. Mike will resend to all of us a SPR document. Bob suggested that the PB propose a Site Plan Review Ordinance for the Select board to consider. There was not a motion nor vote on this, though murmurings of approval were heard. Mike will give us a guideline for it.
Then Mike updated us on the latest building permits:

1) a subdivision on Pomola Ave.
2) a building for boats on West Shore Rd.
And the final subject for the night was about Conducting Meetings. A reminder that we are Town Officials. We can communicate with each other, but no PB conversations if more than 2 of us are together without the public being notified and invited. We can have a subgroup to do research, but no decisions can be made.
We talked a lot about changing from Zoom meetings, to only in-person, or hybrid. We all agreed that we might get more done in-person (plus it is more social). The upshot was to continue to Zoom for now until we can do the hybrid way. (something about a monitor not big enough, not sure about this.)
I suggested going over to a PB members house and we could zoom together.
As Time was marching on, we decided to postpone the rest of the Agenda til next meeting on June 1st. This will include the issue of Public Comment time at PB meetings, when to have it. And we will get an update from the CPC to kick off the meeting!
Hope to see you all there.
Many thanks again to Mike, from whom we are all learning a lot.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Hilly Crary

Planning Board minutes from Thursday, June 22, 2023

Present on Zoom: Tom Bailey, Trina Wellman, Bob Worrell, Hilly Crary, Rob Wilpan (selectman) and Mike Gurtler (CEO).
Minutes of May 2023 meeting were accepted as written.
Mike gave us a thorough and detailed explanation of LD 2003 which goes into effect on July 1st, just over a week away! An Act to implement recommendations... There are 4 areas addressed and the 2nd area, accessory dwelling units (or ADU's) is/will be in conflict with Sorrento's land use ordinance. It allows a 2nd house on a ½ acre lot, and our minimum lot size is ½ an acre for 1 house. Mike said we must incorporate LD 2003 in our Land Use Ordinance. We, the Town, must be consistent with State Rules. And, at the same time we have to enforce our existing ordinance. So, we need to change our Land Use Ordinance. The Planning Board is responsible to put this on the Selectboard's plate. The PB can create language, and have it approved by an attorney. Huge thanks to Mike for all this information and guidance.
Next was a brief report from the Comp Plan: Survey is developed and going to printer soon. Paper copies will

be mailed in early July, and it will also be available online. There will be a Survey Week to encourage participation. Then comes the Chapter writing, with good help from HCPC (Hancock County Planning Commission).
Lastly we discussed the importance of transparency; it especially matters in a small community.
Again, we all so appreciate Mike's professional help!
And a motion was made and passed to adjourn at 8:11 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Hilly Crary - secretary

Planning Board minutes of July 6th, 2023 regular monthly meeting:

The full board was in attendance on Zoom:
Tom Bailey, Beth Clark, Bob Worrell, Trina Wellman and yours truly, secretary Hilly!
Sadly for the group, our excellent and knowledgeable CEO Mike Gurtler was unable to attend, and neither was Select board chair Rob Wilpan.
Motion was made and 2nded and passed to accept the June minutes.
Old Business: LD 2003 has been followed up with LD 1706 (no one seems to know why the numbers go down instead of up!) LD 1706 is to give Towns more time to be in compliance with LD 2003. It extends the compliance deadline to July 1, 2024. (instead of July 1, 2023). This state law will pre-empt or over-ride Town Ordinances, though without Mike here we are discussing this without full knowledge.
We need to ask Mike how to amend our LUO (land use ordinance), and we will need an attorney who specializes in LUO's. We need input from Mike and our town attorney to recommend a LUO expert. Is there Town \$ for this? Our Town attorney, Dan Pileggi, is with the firm Acadia Law Group in Ellsworth, and they do have real estate attorneys.
In other Old business, Tom mentioned a permit he needs, and that he will recuse himself from the vote when it comes to that.
The CPC (Comp Plan Committee) reported that the Public Engagement Survey was mailed today, yay! And those who have received and open theirs were suitably impressed. It is hoped that the responses to the survey questions will assist the PB with some of our recent issues.
Back to LD 1706: We, the PB can give an update on LD 1706 at the TM (Town meeting) in September (the 30th). We all agree that we need help from Mike, and an attorney, and that we will continue discussing this at our August and September PB meetings. We, the PB, want and need to have accountability and transparency

regarding LD 1706. We need to talk with an attorney before our next meeting. Tom will talk with Rob regarding: How to make that happen!
Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, 2nded and passed at 7:38 pm!
Respectfully submitted, Hilly Crary

Meeting

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in person @ the Sorrento Town Office.

Sorrento Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting Minutes June 28, 2023

- *Motion made and passed* to move biweekly meetings to the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 10 am.
- *Motion made and passed* to not offer incentives of any kind to residents for filling out the community engagement survey.

Al Scott, chair
Hilly Crary
Ann Hoffner, secretary
Trina Wellman



Pollinator Meadow News

Mark your calendars! Wednesday August 9, 9-10 am at the Community Building – Meet for an information sharing session about this exciting new project located at the Sorrento Town Hall sculpture. We're off to a great start after soil preparation this summer, thanks to our hardy crew of volunteers. Hope to see anyone in the community interested in knowing more, contributing (we need some gravel and more good, clean soil) and joining us for what's next.

Contact: Hilly hillywc@gmail.com or Gianna reikidancer@gmail.com



CARTER BROTHER'S SCRAP METAL PICK-UP

Danny Carter 207-422-9120

We pick up appliances, plumbing material, household wiring, or any metals.
Call us to schedule a pick-up



To submit news or advertise in the Sorrento Newsletter, email kathi.moore@sorrentomaine.org or call 422-6889. The deadline is the 20th of the month.

Sorrento Fire Department

BURN PERMITS

You are required by Maine law to have a permit to burn, even for a small pile of grass clippings or leaves. A **Forestry Warden** will be called if you burn without a permit, possibly resulting in you being summonsed to court and fined.

The person who signs the fire permit is responsible for the fire. Do not leave any fire unattended.

To obtain a burn permit contact:

Joey Clark, Fire Chief	207-812-2208
Brian Clement, Deputy Chief	207-460-4772
Mike Parker, Asst. Chief	207-460-3470
Chris Eklund, Asst. Chief	207-610-2794
Craig Clement, Chief Engineer	207-460-8851

Required for burning:

*****at least **two adults** to attend the burn,***
*****some form of water supply and hand tools must be on hand,***
*****and it is recommended you have a cellular phone or other communication device to call for assistance should the fire escape.***

YOU are responsible to see that the fire is out before leaving.

TAKE NOTE

BURNING TRASH IS ILLEGAL!!

State Laws (12 MRSA 9321-25) governing the backyard burning of household trash are enforced by the Maine Forest Service.

If you think someone is burning trash **please call 973-3700 immediately!** 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.

ONLINE BURNING PERMITS

Traditional hand-written burn permits are still available, but the state online system allows permits to be acquired 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the state, provided that the fire danger is not high.

For more information, call 287-4989 or visit www.maineburnpermit.com.

SORRENTO FIRE FIGHTER MEMORIAL

Fire Chief Joey Clark is looking for volunteers to form a committee for the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial to be built on the old Sorrento fire house property, honoring deceased members of the Sorrento Volunteer Fire Department.

Contact Joey at 207-812-2208 or email tonkajoe801@yahoo.com



Please consider donating to the Sorrento Fire Fighter Memorial Fund. Checks can be made out to the Town of Sorrento (write FF MEMORIAL in the memo field) and mailed/dropped off at the Town Office, 79 Pomola Avenue, Sorrento, ME 04677

Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Conservation Program

Mike Hall, Shellfish Warden 207-400-6183 or 207-963-7104



Vicky Vaughn
Operations Manager
240-440-3362

"We make the job look and reflect perfection!"

SORRENTO 2023 BULK WASTE **DROP OFF**

Saturday August 12
9 am to 3 pm
Salt/Sand building, Fuller Road

Harris Disposal is not doing curbside pickup as in years past. They will provide a drop off service at the Salt/Sand Shed on the Fuller Road. They will provide trash trucks for demo and containers for metal & universal waste. If you are not able to do drop off, they will provide a **basic** home pick up for a fee. You will need to contact the Town Office prior to the date with your name and address. You will be sent a bill for this charge.

NO Hazardous Material

(motor or transmission oil, gasoline or diesel fuel, human waste, large quantities of paint or cleaning fluid, etc.)

NO Household Food Waste or Kitchen waste or any household garbage that would be part of the weekly collection contract.

Due to Maine D.E.P. laws that are in effect regarding Universal Waste, some of your items will need to have a **SORRENTO BULKY TRASH STICKER** that you purchase from the Town Office. Universal Waste is considered to be anything that contains mercury or lead, such as TVs and computer monitors. The costs for these stickers are:

TVs under 30 inches, computer monitor/
computer equipment \$15
TVs over 30 inches \$25
Propane cylinders: Up to 20 lb. cylinders \$10
Over 20 lb. cylinders \$20
Car Batteries \$5
Florescent Tube Lights \$1

THESE KEYS WERE LEFT BEHIND AT THE MAY 5 SELECT BOARD MEETING AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING. ARE THEY YOURS? CONTACT THE TOWN OFFICE TO CLAIM.



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WANTED

Someone to let dogs out and in 2-3 time a day on an on call basis. Off Eastside Road, Sorrento. Year round, more likely once a week. Call Dale or Vicki @ 302-858-2534 or email dalestroh@aol.com

The Schodic National Scenic Byway Committee

would like to have a member from Sorrento!
If you are interested please email:
info@barbaraeshanahan.com
or call 207-479-2699. And check out their website: schoodicbyway.org

“YOUR TRASH IS SOMEONE’S TREASURE “ DAY

this

Sunday, August 6 in Sorrento

The Budget Committee would like you to set out items at the end of your drive that you think someone might want and hopefully save you from lugging to the bulky waste drop off at the Salt/Sand Shed on August 12. If your items don’t find a new home, at least you tried! Hopefully this will have YOU money by keeping our bulky trash fees as low as possible.

2023 SORRENTO BUILDING PERMITS

Jon Mickel	25 Hillside Drive	09-18D
Construct 15.5x30 deck		
Chuck Bennett	227 West Shore Rd	08-23-2
Construct a 30’x50’ cold storage building		
Robert Worrell	9 Waukeag Avenue	05-37
Construct a 28’x36’ garage per plans		
Crosby Noyes Jr	East Side Road	09-16-3
Construct a single family dwelling per plans		
Diana Gazis	23 Beech Street	14-17
Construct 720 s/f addition to existing structure		
Lynn Campbell	76 Sorrento Avenue	05-2-3
Amend permit #22-06 – additional space		
Colin Carlisle	Sorrento Avenue	05-2-1-2
Construct (shared) driveway per plans		
Pyllis Traver	115 Bayview Avenue	14-04
Construct 6’x9’ addition to deck		

IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENT



Saturday, September 30

**Town Election – 8 am to 12 Noon
Sorrento Community Building**

Candidates for Select Board (3 years)

Stephanie Bullock
Hilly W. Crary

Candidates for RSU 24 School Board (3 years)

Gregory Bullock
Newbold Noyes

Candidates for Fire Chief (2 years)

Joey Clark
Jon Mickel

Candidates for Road Commissioner (2 years)

Joey Clark
Jon Mickel

Absentee ballots will be available starting
August 30.

Call 422-6889 or visit the Town Office.