

Public Hearing Minutes
Tuesday February 3, 2026 at 6 pm
Town Hall Conference Room

Public hearing called to order at 6:04 pm by Select Board chairman Michelle Johnson

There were 9 members of the public present, including the 3 Selectboard members

The purpose of this public hearing is to hear public comments and hold discussion on a proposed amendment to the Portage Lake Land Use Ordinance's minimum lot size to align with the Maine Subsurface Wastewater Rules, and a proposed amendment to the Portage Lake Shoreland Zoning Ordinance's Sec. 16.C.5 requiring a shoreland certified contractor to be present at the site each day earthmoving activity occurs for the duration of a project in the Shoreland Zone area.

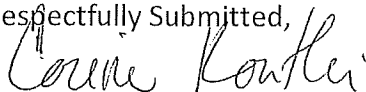
Public Comments:

Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Board Chair Michelle Johnson reads the proposed changes to Shoreland Zoning Sec. 16.C.5 out loud for all present. CEO Margaret Pierce clarified that the entire section will be added to our current Shoreland Zoning Ordinance because it isn't included right now, and while this provision is in State Statute, each town needs to adopt it for it to be enforceable. She also clarified that this provision does not apply to a homeowner doing his/her own work to their own property, only pertains to contracted services. All DEP and/or NRPA permits are still required for any work done in the Shoreland Zone.

Land Use Ordinance Amendment: Margaret Pierce explains the town's Land Use Ordinance references a Minimum Lot Size in several places, but no minimum lot size has ever been declared. The proposed size will be ½ acre to align with the state rules for a minimum lot size as defined in the Subsurface Wastewater Rules.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted,


Corrine Routhier

16.C.(5) When an excavation contractor will perform an activity that requires or results in more than one (1) cubic yard of soil disturbance, the person responsible for management of erosion and sedimentation control practices at the site must be certified in erosion control practices by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. This person must be present at the site each day earthmoving activity occurs for a the duration ~~that is sufficient to ensure that proper erosion and sedimentation control practices are followed. This is required until erosion and sedimentation control measures have been installed, which will either stay in place permanently or stay in place until the area is sufficiently covered with vegetation necessary to prevent soil erosion.~~ The name and certification number of the person who will oversee the activity causing or resulting in soil disturbance shall be included on the permit application. This requirement does not apply to a person or firm engaged in agriculture or timber harvesting if best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control are used; and municipal, state and federal employees engaged in projects associated with that employment.