

WISCASSET ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MINUTES, MARCH 11, 2024
5:30 P.M.
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Present: Al Cohen, Jackie Lowell, Chair Karl Olson, Don Oyster and LCRPC Planner,
Emily Rabbe

Absent: Laura Mewa

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2024.

Don Oyster moved to approve the minutes of February 26, 2024. Vote 4-0-0.

3. Research and Discussion on Firearm Discharge Ordinance

Emily Rabbe said in drafting an ordinance it would be necessary to not conflict with state regulations. She emphasized that the ORC was not directed to draft an ordinance, but to review other towns' ordinances and provide feedback and recommendations to the selectboard whether or how the Town should proceed with the development of a discharge firearm ordinance for portions of the downtown area. She distributed a copies of the Maine Hunting Laws, Maine Hunting Guide, as well as excerpts regarding hunting or discharge of firearms from the ordinances of Gardiner, Bath, Boothbay Harbor, Boothbay and Brunswick. She suggested inviting someone from the Maine Inland Fish and Wildlife Management.

A resident of Pleasant Street said hunters in the cove were shooting too close to the residential area where pets and children are present. Karen Sullivan added that White's Island and the still existing section of road leading to White's Island could be considered a place of assembly and should be an area where shooting was not allowed. The danger of kayakers using Pottle Cove while hunting was going on was also mentioned. Discussion included questions about whether the intent was to limit hunting or limit discharge of firearms in the Pottle Cove area, whether to limit the type of ammunition, exactly what area would be covered by the restriction, should a map be required to show areas where discharge of firearms and/or hunting is allowed and if the matter should be considered as a public safety issue or a limitation on hunting.

Al Cohen moved that Emily Rabbe give a summary of the board's discussion and ask for further direction. Vote 4-0-0.

4. Other Business – none

5. Adjournment

Al Cohen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.