

**Town of Gouldsboro**  
**December 19, 2023**  
**Minutes of the Planning Board Meeting**  
**Gouldsboro Town Office**

**Board Members present:**

Ray Jones, Chairman  
Jeff Grant, Vice-Chairman  
Deirdre McArdle, Secretary  
AJ Higgins  
Shepsi Eaton  
Jed West, Alternate (present on Zoom)

**Board Members absent:**

Deb Bisson, Alternate

**CEO:**

Mike Connors was absent

**Number of Guests:**

1

**ZOOM Guests:**

Zoom not available

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2023, meeting was made by Jeff Grant and seconded by A.J. Higgins. The motion was approved unanimously  
[X ] Approved    [ ] Approved as amended:

**2. Approval of Bills:**

There are no bills currently.

**3. CEO Report**

CEO Mike Connors was not present

## **Old Business:**

### **a.) Finfish Licensing Ordinance**

A discussion about the licensing ordinance was initiated by Chairman Ray Jones. He informed members of the Planning Board that he had sent the attorney, Tim Pease, an email about a possible approach to limiting large-scale finfish aquaculture by including a paragraph addressing this in the Land Use Ordinance. A potential draft discussed was "To the extent permissible by law, any entity or business that employs 10 or more people for the purpose of finfish aquaculture on either Gouldsboro lands or waters shall be prohibited ." Vice-chairman Jeff Grant brought up the point that sub-contractors should be limited and suggested that this should be discussed with the attorney. Conversation followed regarding communities like Sorrento that have outright prohibitions on solar farms and would it be an option to prohibit finfish aquaculture. The Planning Board decided by consensus that a business that does not have a high impact on the environment or the infrastructure of the municipality, like a Mom and Pop business should not be excluded. A question arose from the audience as to whether there was farmed finfish at Stinson's and how many people were employed there and in addition what the feeling was on the Planning Board about re-visiting the Drummond Woodsum ordinance, regarding municipal rights over the waters and submerged lands. As the focus of the Planning Board is on the Land Use Ordinance now there was no interest expressed in reevaluating this ordinance. Vice Chairman Jeff Grant responded that Stinson's had about 130 employees and Maine Fair Trade Lobster had 90-100.

## **New Business**

### **a.) Other**

The Solid Rock Baptist Church is going to open a school at the Former Christian School site on Rt. 186 in South Gouldsboro. They plan to attend the next Planning Board Meeting.

There will be a Public Hearing on the Lobster Trap site Plan application on January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
At 6:00 PM at the Town Office

The next Planning Board Meeting will be: Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> following the public hearing

A motion was made by Jeff Grant to adjourn, was seconded by A.J. Higgins, and passed unanimously. Meeting Adjourned: 6:30 p.m.

*Deirdre McArdle*

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Respectfully submitted: Deirdre McArdle, Secretary

Chairman, Ray Jones

*Ray Jones*

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Vice chairman, Jeff Grant

*Jeff Grant*

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A.J. Higgins

*A.J. Higgins*

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Steven Shepsi Eaton

*Steven Shepsi Eaton*

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Alternate, Deb Bisson

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Alternate, Jed West

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