

PROSPECT PLANNING BOARD

PROSPECT COMMUNITY CLUB

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

4:15 PM

PRESENT: KATHLEEN JENKINS, BECKY AMES, SANDY REYNOLDS, ARLINE LAMARCHE, LAURIE JONES, LOIS GIANNI, HENRI GIGNOUX

OTHERS: PETER SHOULTS (SELECT BOARD), BRANDY BRIDGES (SELECT BOARD), SCOTT REDMOND (CEO), LYNDSEY MCGOWAN (CLERK), SABRINA RINES (CLERK), ELWIN BOYNTON, SUE LEACH & KRISTEN COLLINS (ATTORNEY) ON ZOOM

Jenkins called the meeting to order at 4:16 pm.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR JULY 23, 2026:

Minutes from the meeting were sent to all members. Jones made a motion to accept the minutes of July 23, 2026, Gignoux seconded the motion. All others approved the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Hope Eye – Coastal Funding Opportunities Holding a Meeting 9/22/26 at 10:00 am:

- Jenkins explained that towns can apply for money due to mercury contamination along the Penobscot River Estuary. There has been some money available to Towns, but this pot of money is available now. Bridges mentioned that they have also been in touch with Hope Eye. She mentioned money might be used for a new enclosed Salt Shed, Gignoux said funds might even include purchasing land to complete a town project.

Trey Tankersley, MMA – Along with Brunswick, Data Center Moratorium in Westbrook, Sanford, Scarborough and Bangor:

- The State is not currently writing an AI Ordinance. Any AI Moratorium is on hold until the new government is elected.
- Those towns listed are just some that have sample Moratoria that Prospect could use as templates.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update from Select Board regarding Blasting, AI Moratorium and Special Town Meeting:

- The Town Attorney said that the Town of Prospect needs a Moratorium now. She said bigger municipalities are already involved with Moratoriums. She also suggests no bans, restriction on size, and restrictions around performance standards.
- Jenkins said the Planning Board has already discussed an AI Moratorium with Shoults and he is drafting one for Prospect using Brunswick as a template.
- Bridges said she personally supports an AI Moratorium, especially since we can renew it. She said she doesn't want to be the first town to develop an AI Ordinance.
- As far as a Special Town meeting, according to the Town Attorney, if the AI Moratorium is passed (the one used from the Brunswick template), in the next month or two, it can be made retroactive back to August 13, 2026. There can be (4), six month extensions.
- Also, the Solar and Mining Ordinances can be addressed and voted on at the Special Town meeting.
- Jenkins said that blasting was brought to light due to the fact that the Planning Board wanted to review the Mining Ordinance because Pike was leasing to another company. The Planning Board talked with the Town Attorney and a Hydrogeologist and made the Ordinance more restrictive and also made changes to make sure those leasing, were held to the same standards in the Mining Ordinance. There was a Public Hearing which was well attended and the draft changes were sent to the Select Board for review.
- Bridges had revised (for Prospect), a separate Blasting Ordinance from Alna that she received from the Town Attorney. Along with this there could be a new fee schedule, Public Hearing on all blasting, detailed applications for review, need more protection than the State has, the CEO is on board with extra protections, etc.
- Jenkins and Jones said again the Planning Board does not do permits. Bridges suggested using the CEO, she wasn't comfortable with just having the Fire Chief be the sole authority for permits. How much do we want the blasting applicant to show? Defer to the Town Attorney for suggestions.
- Sue Leach asked about wells being tested before blasting, what is the radius (it would be 1 mile – 2,640 feet, and abutters would be informed before any blasting.
- Shoults said eventually put the Mining Ordinance in the Land Use Ordinance but not the Blasting Ordinance.
- The Town Attorney mentioned maybe a Blasting Ordinance makes sense for everyone, keep it in one Ordinance but be specific whether it is new or existing and she said being grandfathered did not matter, also you could apply a 90-day grace period for compliance, that way it would avoid undue hard ship.

- To summarize a portion: Permitting person for the Town (CEO), Site Plan Review (Planning Board), Enforcer (CEO), Notification of Health & Safety Issues (Fire Chief), still need to create a Blasting Permit Application & Fee.
- The Planning Board and Select Board both are in agreement we need to move forward and need a Public Hearing to address substantial changes. There needs to be a Town meeting on at least the AI Moratorium and the Solar Ordinance changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

AI Data Center prohibition: Moratorium or Ordinance – State of Maine Law that was vetoed by Mills – Ordinances from other Municipalities:

- Delay until after the Moratorium.

OTHER:

N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING:

The Planning Board meeting was adjourned at 5:46 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Planning Board will be on Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 4:15 pm at the Prospect Community Center.